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The Hongkong Telegraph

WEATHER FORECAST
OVERCAST.
Barometer 29.91.

March 23, 1918. Temperature 6 a.m. 64 2 p.m. 95
Humidity

(ESTABLISHED 1851.)
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March 23, 1917. Temperature 6 a.m. 63 2 p.m. 67
Humidity 81 .. 65

7899 日一十月二

SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 1918.

大拜禮 號三十月三英港香

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REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

THE GERMAN OFFENSIVE BEGINS.

GREAT ATTACK ON FIFTY-MILE FRONT.

BRITISH FORCES IN NO WAY SURPRISED.

Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—The enemy opened a heavy bombardment at dawn along the whole of the front in the neighbourhood of Venduill, south of St. Quentin, to the River Scarpe. We raided in the neighbourhood of St. Quentin and brought back prisoners and three machine guns. We also took prisoners to the south-east of Messines and to the south of Houthulst Forest. We repulsed a raid in the neighbourhood of Armentieres.

A Terrific Bombardment.

London, March 21.
Reuter's correspondent at the British Headquarters, telegraphing at ten o'clock in the morning, says that the heavy enemy bombardment, mentioned by Sir Douglas Haig, is extending practically along the whole British front south of the Scarpe. This was followed by gas shells around Fleurbaix. The air is thunderous and our guns are replying strenuously. No infantry movement has yet been reported. The weather is most heavy and aerial observation is almost impossible. Our troops are standing in readiness everywhere for anything which may happen.

Austro-Hungarian Assist.

London, March 21.
A German wireless official message states:—The Bavarian surprise attack south-west of Ornes over-ran the first line and advanced as far as Buleriville. We took 240 prisoners. Austro-Hungarians co-operated against the English and French in artillery firing in the broad sectors on the Western Front.

First Details of the Attack.

London, March 21.
Reuter's correspondent at the British Headquarters, telegraphing in the afternoon, says that following the heavy bombardment which the Germans commenced against the whole of our front south of the Scarpe, the enemy launched an infantry attack on a big scale. Under the cover of a smoke barrage, his infantry came over in dense waves on a front extending from the north of Langcourt to Gauthier Wood. At 10.50 there was hand-to-hand fighting in our front line at various points. The early morning mist had somewhat lifted and our airmen were able to ascend.

Details from the battle line hitherto are scrappy and confused, but it seems certain that the Germans have assumed the offensive on a big scale. The artillery duel is terrific, particularly in the region of the Ridges about St. Quentin, which appear to be a main German objective.

A German Claim.

London, March 21.
A German wireless official message states:—We penetrated a portion of the British positions between Ombrai and Lafere.

British Not Surprised.

London, March 21.
In the House of Commons, Mr. Bonar Law announced that the German attack extended over fifty miles from the Scarpe to the Oise. It was the largest scale offensive of the war. Information at present showed that on part of the front our out-post troops, where the line was very lightly held, have had to be withdrawn to the battle zone, according to pre-arranged instructions. The information indicated that nothing beyond this had occurred. There was nothing in the nature of a surprise. What had occurred need not cause any alarm. The attack had been launched in the very part of our line where it was expected. Moreover, the Headquarters three days ago advised that an attack would be launched immediately. "I am justified in saying that the attack has not surprised us," as those responsible for our forces have foreseen and throughout believed that if such an attack came we were able to meet it. Anything that has happened gives us no cause whatever for additional anxiety. (Cheers.)

Enemy Use of Tanks.

London, March 21.
Reuter's correspondent at the British Headquarters says:—The heavy bombardment opposite Fleurbaix early this morning was followed up by an enemy infantry attack. Bombers mention the enemy employment of tanks. The weather improved during the morning. It has been dry and tolerably clear.

Attack on the French Front.

London, March 21.
A French communique says:—Towards the end of the night there was intense and prolonged bombardment in the sector north and south-east of Rheims and also at various points in Champagne, where the Germans have made several abortive attempts. The bombardment on the right of the Meuse became very violent last night, a strong attack following between Courcieres Wood and Bezvaux. After violent hand-to-hand fighting we drove back the enemy from some points whither, in the first rush, he had succeeded in penetrating. We took prisoners. After lively artillery firing the enemy attacked at 1.30 this morning in the region of Momany in Lorraine. Our fire repulsed him with seriously losses. The attack was without result.

The Belgian Front.

London, March 22.
A Belgian communique says:—There was lively artillery yesterday.

A later Belgian communique says:—A violent bombardment with poison gas-shells against our batteries along the whole front lasted throughout to-day.

German Attacks Break Down.

London, March 22.
A French communique says:—During the day reciprocal artillery activity has been very violent between Mistle and the Aisne, in the region of the Rheims Heights, in Champagne and at Ville sur Tournai. Three successive attacks in the Haulon sector broke down under our fire, or were thrown back by counter-attacks.

British Night-Fliers Busy.

London, March 22.
Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, reporting on aviation, says that the weather yesterday hindered flying. Our night-fliers dropped three hundred bombs on an aerodrome south-west of Tournai and a dump north-west of St. Quentin. All returned.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

THE GERMAN OFFENSIVE BEGINS.

The German Plan.

London, March 21.
Reuter's correspondent at the British Headquarters, wiring in the evening, says that by the employment of great masses of men and great weight of artillery the enemy appears to have penetrated our front line at certain spots, between the Scarpe and Venduill, but counter-measures have not yet been taken and the position is in a liquid state. The enemy's purpose seems to have been to launch converging attacks upon the flanks of the Flequiere salient with a view to cutting it off. The plan has been regarded as probable since the similar attempt at Ombrai in November.

An Attempt to Break Through.

London, March 21.
Mr. Hamilton Fyfe, wiring from France, says that the Germans assembled an enormous number of guns for the preliminary bombardment, but this was not of long duration. It began at five o'clock in the morning and at seven o'clock some German units had already left the trenches, and attacked with heavy and light machine-guns. The engagement became general between nine and ten o'clock on a front of twenty-five miles.

The right of the German attack aimed at Croisilles, Bulcourt and Legnicourt, while the left wing pushed in the direction of Ronseoy and Hargicourt. Everywhere the enemy suffered severely. Fighting in the afternoon developed into hard local struggles for points of vantage, like the brickfield near Croisilles and ruined farmhouses and canal locks, but at present it is useless to attempt to give details. One thing is clear, and that is the enemy for the first time in two years has begun an attempt to break through.

THE DUTCH SHIPPING QUESTION.

Vessels Seized in America.

London, March 21.
Reuter's correspondent at Washington states that the seizure of Dutch ships came into force last night.

Holland Relieved of Awkward Decision.

London, March 21.
All comment on the taking over of Dutch shipping emphasises that, apart from the fact that Holland will not lose by it, the Allies, by their action, have relieved the Dutch Government from making what would have been a most difficult decision. The Dutch Government is probably very thankful as regards this, because Germany cannot now accuse Holland of acquiescing.

Lord Robert Cecil's Statement.

London, March 21.
In the House of Commons, Lord Robert Cecil, in a statement regarding Dutch shipping, said that the Allies deeply regretted that any Government should have appeared to assist the objects of German submarine by not making the fullest use of its shipping. The Allies had been endeavouring for months past, by negotiation and agreement, to induce every country to use its shipping to the fullest. Referring to the abortive negotiations with Holland, dated on March 14, Lord Robert Cecil said that one of the Dutch conditions then was that ships should not enter the danger zone. The Allies, however, recognised that even if an agreement including that condition were accepted, Germany could have rendered it nugatory by extending the danger zone. After mentioning the Allies' liberal conditions, dated on March 14, and outlined in President Wilson's Proclamation, Lord Robert said another Dutch condition was that the ships should not carry war material. As almost everything at present was war material, this condition was also unacceptable. Therefore the Allies felt that their only course was to exercise the unquestionable right of requisitioning the use of Dutch ships under the right of angary. He emphasised that Britain was most anxious to act most carefully and in the least obnoxious way. The repatriation of Dutch crews, who would be treated with the utmost courtesy and consideration, had been provided for. Lord Robert Cecil confirmed that Dutch ships henceforth leaving Dutch ports would not be brought into Allied service except by agreement. The Allies had undertaken that Holland would be supplied with 50,000 tons of wheat or flour in a North American port as soon as possible and a similar quantity in a South American port. He hoped that Holland would immediately send ships for it. The Allies were anxious to meet Holland in every way. There were approximately 450,000 tons of Dutch shipping in American ports and 350,000 in other ports.

BRITISH PRISONERS IN TURKEY.

London, March 22.
In the House of Commons, replying to Sir R. A. Cooper, Mr. Hunt said it had been impracticable to arrange for the internment in a neutral country of British war prisoners, owing to lack of accommodation in an available neutral country and the difficulties of transporting a large number of Turks from Egypt, India and Barmah thereto.

In reply to Mr. Peto, Mr. Hunt said the agreement for the reciprocal repatriation of British and Turkish prisoners was on grounds of health and not length of captivity. It had been signed and was awaiting ratification by Turkey.

Replying to Mr. Gershom Stewart, Mr. Hunt said a lot of recent information from those repatriated, respecting the Turkish internment camps, showed that the conditions were not more unfavourable than was expected. There was a slight tendency to better treatment of prisoners in Turkey, but her difficulties were growing owing to the increasing scarcity and dearth of provisions and the depreciation of Turkish paper currency.

SOME AIR RAID CONTRASTS.

London, March 20.
The Press Bureau says that, excluding the raids on Germany, British and Australian airmen on the Western Front during February dropped 5,290 bombs in the daytime and 2,552 during the night. The enemy has dropped twenty-eight during the day time over the area occupied by the British and 1,768 during the night time.

GERMANY'S WAR BILL.

London, March 21.
Reuter's correspondent at Amsterdam says that in the Reichstag the Secretary of Finance stated that Germany's monthly war costs were now £187,500,000.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

NAVAL ACTIONS.

ANGLO-FRENCH ENGAGE ENEMY DESTROYERS.

German Craft Sunk; No Allied Losses.

London, March 22.
The Admiralty announces that British monitors successfully bombarded Ostend this afternoon. A Naval Air Squadron destroyed five enemy aircraft. British aeroplanes reconnoitring in the Heligoland Bight sank three enemy minesweepers. All the aeroplanes returned.

German Destroyers Attacked.

London, March 21.
The Admiralty announces that two British and three French destroyers (H. Dunkirk, between four and five o'clock in the morning, engaged German destroyers which had previously bombarded the town for ten minutes. Two enemy destroyers and two torpedo boats are believed to be sunk. The survivors of the two torpedo boats were picked up. No Allied vessels were sunk. A British destroyer was damaged, but reached harbour. British casualties are slight, and there are no French casualties.

Two Actions.

London, March 22.
A French official message states:—A division of French-British destroyers fought a detachment of German torpedo boats in the North Sea between four and five o'clock in the morning, sinking two. Shortly afterwards, the same division fought a second action with five large destroyers which had previously bombarded Dunkirk. One German destroyer was sunk and two others were probably lost. We captured some prisoners. It appears that three British were ordered to bombard Dunkirk, Lapanne and Brayduns.

Belgian Coast Bombarded.

London, March 22.
A Belgian communique says:—During the naval engagement last night off Dunkirk, enemy vessels bombarded our coast towards Lapanne.

THE SHIPPING SITUATION.

Some Illuminating Figures.

London, March 21.
The Press Bureau announces that an Admiralty statement summarises as follows the shipping position at the end of last year:—The losses of the British were 7,079,000 tons; foreign 4,750,000. The gains in new construction were, British 3,031,000 tons; foreign, 3,500,000. Enemy tonnage captured by the Allies, 789,000 tons; captured by foreign navies, 1,890,000. The gains of the British were 3,800,000; and foreign gains, 3,340,000.

Press Comment.

London, March 21.
The Times says that Sir Eric Geddes' statement had a mixed reception in the House of Commons and will make a mixed impression outside. The summary tale of British losses is not reassuring. The greatest hiatus of the statement is Sir Eric Geddes' silence on the condition of the shipyards.

The Daily News says that public anxiety will not be alleviated by the figures, which did little to enlighten the position. If the situation is to be redeemed the one thousand men from the Army, whom shipbuilders demanded in October, must return to the shipyards.

The Daily Express says that Sir E. Geddes' statement is not pleasant, and is not improved by the plain demonstration that shipbuilding lacked a strong guiding expert hand. Lord Pirrie should be made the autocrat of the shipyards.

The Daily Mail says that the facts are serious enough, but, if faced in the right spirit, need not cause dismay. We have been more successful in destroying submarines but have lost ground badly in replacing lost ships. Lord Pirrie's appointment is a welcome change.

The Daily Telegraph says the statistics are not calculated to dissipate national anxiety. The position is worse even than we had feared, since last year's depredations equalled a net reduction of 40 per cent. of the tonnage.

The Daily Chronicle says the total tonnage of 33,000,000 is misleading. Making a large deduction for Allied shipping diverted to military and naval purposes and for neutral shipping not available, the real net tonnage available is probably less than half of 30,000,000.

INDIAN MATTERS.

Idle Enemy Ships.

London, March 20.
In the House of Commons, Commander Ballairs complained that the large enemy steamers Brautels and Francis Ferdinand in the Far East had been used as stationary hells for thirty months, although in perfect condition.

Mr. Hayes Fisher replied that he had no information in connection with the matter. Inquiries would be made to the R.I. as possibly the vessels were under the control of the Director of Indian Marine.

The Case of a Widow.

London, March 20.
In the House of Commons, Mr. G. W. Currie affirmed that an officer's widow was charged over fifty pounds sterling as official expenses in Madras for the completion of her title to four hundred pounds worth of shares in the Madras Rubber Company.

Mr. Hayes Fisher replied that of Mr. Currie would give the officer's name, an inquiry would be made.

Pension Regulations.

London, March 20.
In the House of Commons Mr. Hayes Fisher stated, in reply to Col. Yate, that arrangements would shortly be announced in India for putting into effect the provisions of the Royal Warrant dated December 3, 1917, including an extension of the period for electing to take a pension on the completion of twenty-two years' service.

THE GERMANS IN UKRAINE.

London, March 21.
An official German wireless message states:—We have captured Cherson in Ukraine. (Continued on page 4.)

TELEGRAMS.

(Reuter's Service to The "Telegraph.")

THE TURF.

London, March 21.

The following is the result of the Gatwick War National:

Posthlynn 1
Captain Dreyfus 2
Ballymac 3
Seventeen ran. Won by four lengths, a bad third.
The betting was 6 to 1 against the winner; 20 to 1 against Captain Dreyfus; and 7 to 1 against Ballymac.

THE RICE POSITION.

An Official Statement from

Rangoon.

The Rice Commissioner has issued the following, says the Rangoon Weekly Times of March 21:—

There appears to be considerable misapprehension as to the state of the paddy and rice markets and as to the action which is being taken by Government to maintain the tone of these markets.

The markets, which had been inflated by speculation at the commencement of the year, 1917, became seriously depressed owing to the abnormal shortage of shipping during the last quarter of that year; and notwithstanding the low rates, an abnormal quantity of the old crop remained unlifted when the new crop was harvested. As soon as the new crop came on the market with no better prospects of shipping, it became certain that the price would fall to a level which would mean ruin to the cultivator. The intervention of Government became the only method of relieving the situation.

approval of the House of Commons, that all Burma rice required for shipment to Europe should be purchased locally. The purchase price for rice was fixed on a basis price of Rs. 105 per 100 baskets of 48 lbs. paddy, with intention of resuscitating the market and of securing that the local price of paddy should be in the vicinity of this figure. These anticipations were not realised and the collections of land revenue was temporarily suspended so as to enable the cultivator to keep back his paddy until the position could be made clearer. The Home Government have now sanctioned the immediate placing of f.o.b. Rangoon, Bassein and Akyab contracts up to 400,000 tons for shipment between March and July. These amounts do not include 80,000 tons for which contracts had been previously placed. Tonnage will be provided for purchases on Government account.

Simultaneous arrangements are being made by Government to increase the shipping available for export to markets other than Europe. Tonnage of at least 37,000 tons a month for Dutch East Indies is being provided, and licences covering 155,000 tons have already been sanctioned for other destinations. The minimum requirements for local consumption of Ceylon, Malaya and Zanzibar are estimated at about 340,000 tons. On the whole the outlook now is not unfavourable, and the Local Government feel confident that the market will respond to the encouragement which is being given, and that any misapprehension that exists will now be removed.

DON'T FORGET.

TO-DAY.

Victoria Theatre—9.15 p.m.
Bijou Theatre—9.15 p.m.
New Hongkong Cinema—9.15 p.m.

TO-MORROW.

Victoria Theatre—9.15 p.m.
Bijou Theatre—9.15 p.m.
New Hongkong Cinema—9.15 p.m.

GENERAL NEWS.

Spurious Notes in Japan.
The Bank of Korea has found that some of its twenty sen notes have been fraudulently altered into fifty sen notes and has therefore decided to withdraw all of them now in circulation. The Bank will hereafter cease to issue 20 sen notes.

Awarded the D.S.O.
Major (not. Lieut-Col) E. A. Rook, R.E., has been awarded the D.S.O. for services in the field. Major Rook will be remembered here as Captain R. E. about 1911, when his services with the S.O.C. cricket eleven proved very valuable.—*Singapore Free Press*

Going to Japan.
By the Dutch mail steamer leaving Singapore about April 11, Sir Edward Broekman, K.O. M.G., and Lady Broekman are to go to Yokohama to spend a holiday in Japan, and the Rev. Mr. Nagle, Principal of the Anglo Chinese School, is bound to San Francisco.

Trade Trip to the East.
The Attorney-General, Mr. Hall, is to combine business with pleasure on his trip to Japan. He will leave in the near future says the *Singapore Evening News*. At a meeting of the Cabinet it was decided to commission Mr. Hall to inquire into the general operations of the Trade Commission in the East, and the results that are being obtained. The present Trade Commissioner is Mr. J. B. Saitor.

War Relics for America.
The shell case which held the first shot fired by American artillerymen on the Western front was presented to President Wilson on December 3 by a party of Congressmen who recently made an unofficial visit to the battlefields. Each member of the party received a shell case from the first bombardment. The first one was saved for President Wilson, the second for General Pershing, the third for General Sibert, and those fired afterwards were distributed among the party.

Formerly Governor of Cochinchina.

The death in France of M. Le Myre de Villers recalls to mind a man who played a prominent part in Far Eastern politics about two decades ago. When he retired from the Governorship of Cochinchina he settled down in France, but when trouble arose between France and Siam, he was specially sent out to settle matters and sign the treaty by which Siam had to cede a large part of her territory to France, and he had to stay some weeks in Singapore waiting for a French man-of-war to convey him to Bangkok.

Dairying and Child Labour.
Mr. John Hackett, of the Children's Protection Society, recently asked Mr. Piddington, K.O., the Interstate Commissioner at present investigating charges for dairy produce, to hear evidence regarding child labour on dairy farms, says the *Singapore Evening News*. Mr. Piddington, sitting at the Commonwealth Bank, made reference to the matter, which, he said, was only incidental to his investigation of prices. Therefore, could only be treated at the Commission in a piecemeal fashion. He could not say at what stage or in what form the evidence would be taken. If Mr. Hackett forwarded data he would have it forwarded to the Federal Government, which might possibly decide upon a special inquiry.

Shanghai Gentleman's Will.
An application for a grant of probate of the will of Frederick Montague Gratton, deceased, was made in H. M. Supreme Court Shanghai, recently to His Honour Judge Sir Haviland de Saumarez. Mr. D. McNeill, appearing on his own behalf, as executor of the will, pointed out that no order or want of order could alter his position as vested owner of the property. He was quite willing to pay, and had, in fact, paid all the duty chargeable in respect of the whole of the estate which he thought was vested in him. He quite agreed that there was just some possibility of some kind of quibbling argument with regard to the words used by Mr. Gratton in his will, but he did not think there was any possibility of their being any quibble with regard to what he actually meant. The order was granted.

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COST OF LIVING.

How it Increases in the East.

The Far Eastern peoples, who are sometimes accused of a lack of sympathy with the war aims and war-time movements of the Occident, can at least lay claim to a community of interests when the cost of maintaining a bare existence is discussed, and the press, in many languages, from Singapore to Siberia, seems to be discussing this topic with more than passing interest. Not only has the foreign resident to struggle to maintain his high estate in the small and exclusive communities which fringe the continent Asia and the shores of the various islands, but the native populations also are feeling the pinch and are feeling it just where the populations of the Western nations are feeling it. Standards of living are going up, prices of imports—once luxuries but now necessities—have already gone up, and the salaries of respectable middle class folk, particularly of the professional small fry, are just where they were, and are even on the decline in some centres.

In the chorus of complaints from all quarters of the East the Japanese wall is perhaps the loudest, undoubtedly because the Japanese are the most highly modernised and have acquired the most expensive tastes of all the Oriental peoples. There is no complaint from the workers for their salaries in Japan are now phenomenally high, and there is no complaint from the big traders and the manu- facturers for they have been coining money. The grocer, some from the middle class teachers, professors, writers, editors, clerks, accountants, Government employees, police, officers in the army and navy, and many others whose salaries are now much lower than those of the skilled labourers and who have to dress, live, and educate their children in keeping with the traditions of their class. The wife of a Japanese army officer in an itemised account of her household expenses made only some time ago before the last twenty per cent. leap in prices, revealed

the fact that by exercising the most careful economy she contrived to save two yen out of an income of yen fifty per month, making no allowance for sickness or accidents. This she was able to do because her parents helped clothe the children and because she and her husband saved their own garments by staying at home.

In the commercial centers in China what might be called the clerical class is suffering unduly from a combination of evil conditions which renders its existence precarious. The standard of living in cities like Shanghai and Tientsin has gone up 100 per cent. in ten years. Overseas trade is dull on account of the war, and internal trade is uncertain on account of perpetual revolution. The number of trained, English-speaking, salaried men has increased enormously in a few years and the demand for them has decreased noticeably during the past year or so. A Chinese vernacular paper recently commented upon this situation by offering to supply any number of men who could have commanded a salary of \$150 a month three years ago, at \$50 a month. This in spite of the fact that it costs about thirty per cent. more to live now than it did three years ago. Even from the Tibetan border an anguished correspondent wrote some time ago that the prices of meat and flour had doubled in the past eighteen months.

The foreigner in the East also faces economic difficulties. A paper published in the Straits Settlements recently gave space to correspondence from residents, who itemised their domestic budgets for the benefit of the public, and it transpired that a cautious and economical bachelor's annual expenses in that quarter of the Orient amounted to 2332 a year, which is really a good deal more than the average salary. Yet the firm which sends a representative to the Orient on a lesser salary than this is obliging him to something equivalent to the hall bedroom and the dairy lunch; while a man who is expected to join clubs, entertain, and otherwise maintain social prestige needs at least double this amount.—*Far Eastern Review*

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HOLDERS OF UNPAID WINNING TICKETS (Cash Sweeps, Places and Winners) will also be paid at the same place and between the same hours as stated above on production of tickets.

LOWE, BINGHAM & MATTHEWS,

Accountants to the Hongkong Jockey Club.

Hongkong, 28th February, 1918.

NATIONAL LOAN OF THE THIRD YEAR OF THE REPUBLIC (1914).

SUBSCRIBERS to the above loan are hereby reminded that interest coupons become invalid for payment on the expiry of three years from the date on which the half yearly period covered by them ends. Thus Coupon No. 2 covering interest on the above loan for the period 1st January to 30th June 1915 will cease to be valid for payment after 30th June 1918. Bondholders who have not yet presented this coupon for payment should do so before 1st July, 1918.

F. A. AGENT
Inspector General of Customs

NOTICES.

WARD OFF DISEASE
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Jiujitsu, and
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IF PREPARED.
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THE HONGKONG & WHAM-POA DOCK CO., LTD.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Ordinary Yearly Meeting of Shareholders will be held in the Office of the Company 2, Queen's Buildings, Hongkong, on MONDAY 25th March, 1918, at 12th noon, for consideration of the Directors' Report and Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1917.

WATSON'S HYGIENOL

A HIGHLY CONCENTRATED AND PERFECTLY SAFE
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Correspondents are requested to observe the rule which requires them to forward their names and addresses with communications addressed to the Editor, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of their bona fides. All communications intended for publication should be addressed to the Editor.

Business correspondence should be sent to the Manager.

Cable Address: Telegraph, Hongkong.

Telephone: No. 1 A.B.C., 5th edition. Western Union
Office address: 11, Ice House St.

The Hongkong Telegraph.

HONGKONG, SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 1918.

GERMANY FINDS A SCAPEGOAT.

The fact that the Reichstag has seen fit to indulge in a discussion on the "Lichnowsky Memorandum" is sufficient to indicate the extreme anxiety of the Germans to place themselves in a better light in the eyes of the world so far as their part in the instigation of the war is concerned. It will be remembered that Prince Lichnowsky was for some time prior to the war the German Ambassador, and we will at any rate do him the honour of saying that he was one of the most straight-dealing Germans who had ever held that post. But he now appears to be in very bad odour in Berlin, simply because he had been honourable enough to write a Memorandum justifying his friendly attitude to Britain and showing the British keen desire to remain at peace with the world. It seems that only half a dozen copies of this Memorandum were made, one of which happens to have reached the offices of a Socialist paper in Stockholm, with the result that its contents have now become public property, much to the chagrin of the German Government.

What does the now-famous Memorandum contain that its publication should cause so much annoyance in Berlin? It puts on record that Prince Lichnowsky, when he arrived in London in 1912, found that Sir Edward Grey, the then Foreign Minister, had refused to give up the idea of an agreement with Germany, and that the British aim was not to isolate Germany but to get her to participate in an already established concert by removing causes of friction between England and Germany, thus securing a world peace by a network of agreements. Those who take their minds back to the events of the time mentioned will agree that this is a fair representation of Britain's foreign policy, and it will be remembered that much was expected from the appointment of Prince Lichnowsky to London. Indeed, it was generally believed at that time that Britain and Germany were nearer composing their differences than ever they had been. The German Ambassador apparently saw the situation in the true light, and for daring to show that Britain above all else desired peace, he has gained nothing but unpopularity in the Fatherland. How does the German Government now justify its oft-repeated assertion that it was Britain, and not Germany, that provoked the war? If Prince Lichnowsky's record of British feeling is correct, how can that declaration be accepted? The two standpoints are absolutely opposed one to the other. But that does not bother the present German Vice-Chancellor, for he attempts to get out of the difficulty by discrediting Prince Lichnowsky and making him the scapegoat. He paints a picture of the former German Ambassador having been what one might almost term "fascinated" by foreign diplomats (especially British), with the result that he "frequently regarded Germany's most zealous enemies as her best friends, because they were personally on good terms with him." Only a German would attempt to wriggle out of an awkward position by thus attributing such childish credulity and innocence to an experienced Ambassador. And this is followed up by a declaration that the object of the Memorandum was to reveal the superiority of Prince Lichnowsky's policy as contrasted to that of the Berlin Government. In other words, the German Vice-Chancellor wants the world to believe that Prince Lichnowsky was a conceited but at the same time most glib diplomat, of whom the wicked British statesmen made sport to suit their own ends.

What will the average, intelligent observer make of the Memorandum and the motives which inspired it? He can only come to the conclusion that it was written in all sincerity by a man who knew from first-hand experience what he was talking about. It reflects the sheer truth—that British foreign policy all the way through has aimed at the securing of world peace, and that, had Germany only been willing to grasp the proffered hand of friendship, this terrible war never need have happened. The responsibility for the world-confusion lies with Germany, and with Germany alone. To-day the German Government knows that to be the truth, and that is why it seeks to cover up its unpardonable crime by endeavouring to bring discredit on the one German who appears to have been willing to accept the transparent honesty and straightforwardness of Britain's foreign attitude.

Food and Rents.

In our issue of yesterday there appeared one or two items of news regarding the fixing of food prices and rents in India and elsewhere which must make the average Hongkong householder wish that he had taken up his abode in a place where a fairer measure of consideration is shown to the public than is the case here. For example, an account was given of the manner in which Bombay has dealt with the question of food prices, by appointing a Controller and Committees who are in immediate touch with the people, the machinery being provided for the investigation of the latter's complaints. In this instance, of course, it is really in the interests of the very poor that the legislation has been enacted, but the admission of the principle of control is the thing that matters, coupled with the obviously better arrangements that have been made to stop profiteering than is the case here. Bombay has also set the lead in legislating against excessive rents, and in this respect it has gone even further than the provisions of the English Act, which is limited to premises of a certain rental, whereas the Bombay Ordinance applies to all houses and business establishments in the city, a ten per cent. increase being allowed on the pre-war standard.

Contrasts in Methods.

Another item in yesterday's issue was that an arrangement had been reached at Yokohama whereby the public is able to buy market produce at a saving of 23 per cent., even after allowing the producer a fair margin of profit. No wonder a Shanghai contemporary, commenting on this development, displayed a curiosity as to how much profit a similar measure in Shanghai would disclose. And we repeat the echo with local emphasis. Our whole point in quoting these instances is to show that what Hongkong fails to do, others succeed in managing. There is no rent restriction Ordinance in this Colony, nor do we anticipate that there will be any in the near future, though goodness knows that local conditions constitute a strong argument for the necessity of such a measure. So far as food prices are concerned, the public well knows by this time how unsatisfactory the existing arrangements are so far as keeping down over-charging goes. True, there is supposed to be a Food Committee here, but who ever hears of it instituting a prosecution? And so Hongkong goes on while other places grapple with pressing problems in a businesslike manner, quite in keeping with the times in which we live.

America and Russia.

The attitude of the United States towards the Russian people at the present time, as disclosed in the statement of the American Ambassador at Moscow in one of yesterday's telegrams, is eminently one of unalloyed goodwill and friendship. We are told that the American Government and people are too deeply interested in the prosperity of the Russians to abandon the country to the Germans, and that America is ready to help any Government which will sincerely organise a serious resistance against enemy invasion. The necessity, of course, is, as the Ambassador says, for the Russian people themselves to stop their political quarrelling and to act vigorously and resolutely. That, indeed, is the only hope of Russia emerging from her present trouble and preserving her national independence. We are afraid, however, that we are as yet a long way from the time when this happy state will be reached. Russia is evidently doomed to pass through much travail yet before she recovers her equilibrium, but if out of the present turmoil some common ground for action can be found we may yet see the time when the mistake of making peace with a bullying enemy will be fully relieved.

Engineer Murdered.

An engineer in the employ of the Kienan Railway, named Englis, was murdered, and thrown into a well, a few days ago, writes the P. and T. Times.

DAY BY DAY.

TRUE-FORGIVENESS IS A MAS-
QUINER. A WOMAN MERELY
DEFERS PUNISHMENT.

To-morrow's Anniversary.
To-morrow is the anniversary of the Union of England and Scotland. (1603).

The Dollar.

The opening rate of the dollar on demand to-day was 3s. 1½d.

The Examination Service.
It is notified that the Commodore has appointed Acting Lieutenant Edward Terence Johns, R.N.R., to be Officer in charge of the Examination Service, vice Lieutenant Frederick Medway, R.N.

Daylight Robbery.

A Chinese living at 121 Queen's Road West, has reported to the Police that yesterday he was given a \$50 note by his father to change. While he was on his way to the changer's, two men assaulted him and robbed him of the money.

P. W. D. Appointment.

His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to appoint, under instructions from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, Mr. Thomas Luff Perkins to be First Assistant Director of Public Works, vice Mr. Alec Fleming Churchill, retired on pension, with effect from the 21st February, 1918.

Stolen Gunny Bags.

A Chinese was charged before Mr. J. E. Wood, at the Police Court this morning, with stealing two gunny bags, and also with returning from banishment. It was stated that the bags were found wrapped round defendant's waist underneath his jacket. Defendant was sentenced to ten months' hard labour.

A Fire.

At 12 40 this morning, fire broke out at No. 5, Hollywood Road, the ground floor of which is used by a printer. The basement is used for the storing of paper and other material and it is believed it was here where the fire originated. The house, which is not covered by insurance, was practically gutted, and the damage is estimated at \$8,500.

Hongkong Boy's Success.

Mr. Ping Key Chan, one of the old boys of the Suiyungpun Government English School, Hongkong, graduated in the University of Ohio in America last June, obtaining the degree of B. Sc. E. E. Associate member of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers. Mr. Chan is now a member of the engineering staff of an electric manufacturing concern in America.

Exporting Dollars.

Before Mr. J. E. Wood, at the Police Court this morning, a ricksha coolie was charged with attempting to export 50 silver dollars from the Colony without a permit. Defendant said the money was given to him by friends to take to Swatow for them. Inspector Brown said defendant had the money concealed on his person in a cloth belt. A fine of \$1 was inflicted and the money confiscated.

Lecture.

There was a large and representative gathering at the Helena May Institute last night, when Sir Charles Eliot delivered a lantern lecture on "Peking its Palaces and Temples." The subject was handled in a most interesting way, and the beautiful slides shown were greatly appreciated. At the close, His Excellency the Governor, who presided, expressed hearty thanks to the lecturer and to Mr. Warren for his help in preparing the pictures for reproduction.

To Merchants.

The attention of merchants is called to the revised Consolidating List of persons and firms on the Statutory List which has just been published and which is obtainable from the Government Printers, Messrs. Noronha and Co., No. 14A Des Voeux Road Central, at the price of \$1 a copy. Trading with any person or firm on the Statutory List is illegal, and merchants should make themselves acquainted with the contents of the Consolidating List and of all subsequent Orders in Council amending the Statutory List. The Consolidating List also contains some notes on trading with the enemy which may be useful to merchants.

1893.

HONGKONG TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO.

(Compiled from the "Hongkong Telegraph" files for the week ending March 30, 1893.)

The Dollar.

March 23.—The rate of the dollar on demand to-day is 2/8.

Commonsense Needed.

March 24.—There was a great deal of twaddle talked at the meeting of the "Job Lots" last night on the question "What does Hongkong want?" As a matter of fact, Hongkong is mostly in need of a little sense. Given hard, solid, master-of-the-fact commonsense, and the Colony would at once proceed to hang a few of its leading lights, put some others in gaol, and chase the rest of the bogeys away from the East.

More Wants.

March 25.—"What does Hongkong want?" asks the Ancient Order of Job Lots. We will briefly try to fairly answer the question. More decency, more honesty, a lot more money, less knavery, more efficient Government officials, a wholesale exodus of flashy and unreliable aliens, the abolition of bogus company-promoters and smug-faced commercial friends, the cremation of all the cads, dodes and "tinklers" who swarm everywhere; additional independent directors of joint stock concerns who are willing to work for their wages and don't make use of other people's money for their own personal aims, a thorough system of fair dealing in every branch of recognised fair trade, five years' penal servitude for certain taipans of notorious German and other shipping firms who by bribery and corruption are eating the heart out of British Free Trade, less humbug and "side" from illiterate and low-bred upstarts who at the Club and elsewhere ape monkey nobility, the removal of the abominable stinks which make both day and night hideous throughout the colony, the smashing out of the ignoble ring of guinea-pig directors (most of whom ought to be in gaol) who strangle the legitimate efforts of British merchants, fairer women and better men, and the deportation of nine tenths of the legal fraternity for conspiracy, fraud and all round chicanery. Amen!

The Office Goat.

March 25.—The Portuguese gunboat Bengo left for Macao this morning, so that the Office Goat can now be safely released from durance vile. "Billy" has been 'on the chain' in the coal cellar, for the past thirty-six hours, as a measure of precaution. We feel sure that the O.G. meant to ram the Macao ironclad—but, thank heaven, all danger of such a catastrophe has passed away. Wateriously contemplate making William a missionary, or an assistant editor of the Daily Peak.

Weighted in the Balance.

March 29.—Yesterday Inspector Stanton held a levee at Wanchai in his capacity as inspector of weights and measures. In consequence, a number of gentlemen who had been, so to speak, weighed in the balance and found wanting, came before the Magistrate this morning and contributed small sums to the Colonial Treasury, totalling nearly \$100.

An Old Grievance.

March 30.—There are thieves and thieves but the sneak-thief is the most contemptible of all. And it is with the sneak-thieves who "get away" with copies of the Telegraph that we would now have a word. Innumerable complaints have reached us of late regarding the uncertain delivery of the Telegraph at the Peak. We investigated the matter and know where, and by whom, the papers are annexed. We feel sure that this hint will suffice and that our subscribers at the Peak will not have any further cause for complaint.

Acting Bank Manager.

Mr. A. K. Linton, of the Mercantile Bank, has gone to Singapore to take charge of the Singapore Branch while Mr. J. B. Piskin goes away for a holiday.

CORRESPONDENCE.

(The opinions expressed by correspondents are not necessarily those of the "Hongkong Telegraph.")

THE EXAMPLE.

(To the Editor of the "Hongkong Telegraph.")

Sir,—At present it appears that every class of Hongkong resident has some sort of a grievance against the other. The high officials deplore the failings of their subordinates, the clergy are protesting against the moral lapse of the Government in the case of the forthcoming War Bonds drawing, and the well-meaning public are alarmed at the dimensions of the opium farm in a neighbouring colony, and fear that a large amount of money will be diverted there from Hongkong.

However, whether sincere or not, all are agreed as to the wicked example that is being shown to our powerful neighbours on the mainland. As to the aforesaid neighbours, they were never as happy before. They have opium, gambling, rackets, flower-boats, robbery and frequent murder, besides any other diversion they care to indulge in. It is futile to talk of the moral influence the few Europeans who live in Hongkong would have on twenty or thirty millions of people, who are having the time of their lives.

There is yet one little point in the attitude of the Colony that they cannot fail to notice especially those who travel and whose stories, incidentally, have more weight than all the niceties of Hongkong civilisation or Overseas Club propaganda. They tell astonishing stories as to why Hongkong does not show a light from their lighthouses at night. It is no secret to them that Hongkong is the only place from Manchuria to Singapore that is in darkness on account of the war.

It would be interesting to know what the shipowners and agents think of the arrangement which has now been in force over a year. The hire and cost of steamers is pretty high as also is fuel. At present, owing to the absence of marks, shipmasters have to wait for daylight before they can get a position, and this at a time when every hour is precious, besides running the risk of stranding owing to the erratic currents which prevail in the vicinity.

Yours etc.

VIATOR.

Hongkong, March 22, 1918.

ST. JOHN AMBULANCE BRIGADE.

Orders issued by Mr. E. Ralphs state:—

All detachments will parade on the Cricket Ground on Sunday, the 24th inst., at 9 a.m. for Company and Stretcher Drill, and inspection of equipment. Dress: Helms, shorts, puttees, haversacks (filled), waterbottles (filled). Ambulances and stretchers required.

No. 3 V.A.D.

Monday, March 25th.—1.15 p.m. Recruit Drill.
Tuesday, March 26th.—1.15 p.m. Recruit Drill.
Wednesday, March 27th.—2.30 p.m. Band Practice.
Saturday, March 30th.—2.30 p.m. Band Practice.

No. 4 V.A.D.

"A" SECTION.
Monday, March 25th.—4.20 p.m. Banding Practice.
Thursday, March 28th.—4.20 p.m. Squad and stretcher Drill.

"B" SECTION.

Monday, March 25th.—1.20 p.m. First Aid.
Thursday, March 28th.—1.20 p.m. Banding Practice.

Looking for Charters.

The Russian Volunteer Fleet steamers which have been able to make their way out of Vladivostok are reported to be looking for charters between Dairen and Japan or any other ports which will not involve their return to Russia during the present unsettled state of the country.

TO-DAY'S MISCELLANY.

It is not so easy to determine a man's nationality as those who clamour for the internment of all Germans imagine. A recent case has just perplexed our authorities, who had to decide whether a man who was born in Belgium, and whose German father subsequently became a naturalised British subject, was or was not an enemy alien. According to British law he would appear to be a German, but according to German law he is a man without nationality, and in this case German law seems right, because none of the three countries concerned will own him.

Think of the future of Russia under these circumstances. Up to August last the Revolutionary Food Committee had absorbed \$50 million; the Revolutionary Agrarian Committee \$14 million, the Petrograd Soviet in salaries alone, \$340,000; the local Soviets on a similar scale; the extra pay and food given to the disorganised armies under the Kerensky administration worked out at the rate of \$1,100 million per annum; in July there were \$1,400 millions of unpaid bills in the Treasury, and no cash. During the war in 1914 the average cost, per month was \$22 millions; in 1915 it was \$28 millions; in 1916 \$29 millions; during the revolutionary months it rose to a monthly average of \$83 millions.

What is claimed by connoisseurs to be the finest drop shaped pearl yet raised in Australia was recently found on the north west coast, and is now being exhibited by a firm of jewellers in Melbourne. It weighs 100 grains, or to convey an idea of the size, better to non-experts, it is about the size of an ordinary sparrow's egg. In London quite recently, the central pearl of the now famous necklace which was stolen during transit from Paris to London, and which weighed only 47½ grains, was sold for \$14,000, and connoisseurs consider that the 100 grain drop now being exhibited is quite equal to it in quality. It has been named by the owners the "Star of the West."

An Ohio (U.S.A.) man says the war would soon be over if the Allies would only adopt his suggestion, which is for aviators to drop potato "bombs" over Germany. He declares there are no potato bugs in the Kaiser's realm, and since the "spud" is absolutely essential to Germany's economic welfare, the dropping of "Murphy destroyers" over the Rhine country would quickly terminate hostilities. The remedy seems simple, but how the aviators are to identify potato patches at 10,000 or more feet up is likely to set them thinking.

Now that we are threatened with a world shortage of cotton, every inducement to grow more within the Empire is needed, and those who have India's interest at heart are glad to see the disadvantages under which she has laboured at length removed. Very little Indian cotton is used in the English mill, owing to the staple being too short. The chief buyers before the war were Japan and the Continent, and it is a significant fact that during the first six months of 1914 Germany bought more Indian cotton than during the whole of the previous year. A great deal is also made up into piece goods for sale in the country.—L. F. Stockwell, in the *Milgate Monthly*.

The Duke of Westminster, the *Daily Express* states, has decided to present Easton Hall, his magnificent seat near Chester, as a gift to the British nation. The house is said to have cost at least \$1,000,000 to build, and it contains pictures, tapestry and furniture worth a fortune. Ever since the days of the Conquest the Grosvenors have lived on the banks of the Dee, and the house has been rebuilt time after time. The present mansion was begun in 1876 and finished in 1881. It has been occupied by wounded officers for some time.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

(Continued from Page 1.)

THE LICHNOWSKY MEMORANDUM.

Feeble Statements in the Reichstag.

Amsterdam, March 21.
Von Payer concluded his speech in the Reichstag on the Lichnowsky Memorandum by saying:—"Nobody will reproach Prince Lichnowsky on account of his belief in himself. He is free to make notes about events and his attitude thereto but should have considered it a duty that his views should not become known to the public, and no matter how small his circle of readers was his duty was to state nothing contradicting facts which he knew. As things now are the Memorandum will cause enough harm amongst malevolent and superficial people but the Memorandum is absolutely valueless historically."

Von Payer next referred to a duplicate copy of a letter from Dr. Muehlen, now in Switzerland, who was a member of Krupp's Directorate at the outbreak of war. He said Dr. Muehlen's letter referred to the utterances of two high-placed gentlemen, from which Dr. Muehlen concluded that the German Government in July, 1914, lacked a desire for peace. Both these gentlemen had stated in writing that Dr. Muehlen suffered from nerves, and Von Payer also considered Dr. Muehlen's statements were those of a diseased mind. After a brief discussion, Von Payer said the Imperial Department of Justice considered the question of taking criminal or disciplinary action against Prince Lichnowsky, with the result that on various legal grounds the prosecution of Prince Lichnowsky for diplomatic high treason would not have been successful. There was no longer any question of disciplinary proceedings. After Prince Lichnowsky's retirement the Foreign Office had prohibited him from publishing articles in the Press.

Herr von Stamm, the Foreign Under-Secretary, said the Kaiser in agreement with the Chancellor, appointed Prince Lichnowsky to London. Prince Lichnowsky was zealous in his duties while in London, though his strong optimism with reference to German and English relations did not agree with the views of the German Foreign Office. When Prince Lichnowsky's hopes of a German-English understanding were destroyed by the war, Prince Lichnowsky returned to Germany greatly excited and even then he did not restrain his criticism of German policy. This excitement increased owing to the German Press attacks against him, and this must be taken into consideration in judging the Memorandum.

Replying to criticisms of the messengers of the German White Book, Herr von Stamm said it had to be compiled quickly so as to present to the Reichstag a clear picture on the question of guilt at the outbreak of the war. He agreed that the Blue Books of other States were more voluminous, but the German White Book contained no falsification. Herr von Stamm concluded by announcing that a new edition of the German White Book was being prepared.

A Pointed Remark.

London, March 21.

Forwards says that Prince Lichnowsky's brilliant testimony regarding English policy may help to teach the Germans again to think calmer and more open-mindedly about England.

EAST AFRICAN CAMPAIGN.

London, March 21.

An East Africa official message states:—"We are getting in contact with a strong enemy force in the Melubini coastal area. A fresh column, disembarking at Mouzambique, have occupied Namupa, 110 miles inland."

PROGRESS IN PALESTINE.

London, March 21.

A Palestine official message states:—"We have consolidated and improved our positions. We have occupied El-Musallab and the high ground east of and three miles to the north of the Wadi Oja, also Beitrima and Kefrat, near Beer Bilut. The Flying Corps and Australian Flying Corps dropped 476 bombs on E. Kairani station and trains. Direct hits were obtained."

MINERS AND THE ARMY.

London, March 21.

The National Miners' ballot resulted in a majority of 28,766 votes against the coming-out of 50,000 miners for the Army, as demanded by the Government.

Mr. Lloyd George yesterday told the Executive of the Miners' Federation who presented the figures of the ballot on the subject of coming-out, that men would be required to be recruited for the army.

TRANSFER OF GERMAN PRISONERS.

London, March 21.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Hope states that the Government was determined to ensure redress for British prisoners of war who were improperly treated. He also stated that it had been thought desirable to transfer a number of German officers from the West of England to the East Coast. This was not a reprisal or punishment. The climate on the Kent and Essex coasts was probably better than that of a number of prison camps in Germany—(Cheers).

THE SPANISH CABINET CRISIS.

London, March 21.

Reuter's correspondent at Madrid says that Senor Maura has been instructed to form a Cabinet.

Later.

Reuter's correspondent at Madrid says that Senor Maura has refused to form a Cabinet, as Senor La Cierva insisted on remaining as the War Ministry, to which Senor Maura disagreed.

RUSSIAN AFFAIRS.

retrograd, March 21.

Naval Commissary Dybenko has been arrested for not taking the necessary measures at Odessa at Narva. The papers state that M. Joffe, ex-President of the Great Russian peace Delegation, has been appointed Foreign Commissary in succession to M. Trotsky.

SEIZURE OF DUTCH SHIPS.

Washington, March 21.

The President in a proclamation authorizes the seizure of Dutch ships in American ports. The proclamation was issued after the War Trade Board had been informed that Holland had rejected the American ultimatum to transfer the ships.

SPANISH CABINET PROBLEM.

Madrid, March 21.

After frequent consultations with the King, Senor Prieto has absolutely refused to form a Ministry.

KOWLOON CRICKET CLUB.

The Tennis Tournament.

The entries for all but one of the events in this tournament are very satisfactory and the list will be closed on Sunday, the 24th instant. In view of the very small number of entries for the Ladies Singles event (competitors being confined to relatives of members) it has been decided to make this an Open Event, and it is hoped that many ladies, though they have no connection with the Club, will enter. Competitors are requested to send their names to Mr. L. J. Blackburn, Hon. Secretary of the Kowloon Cricket Club, before April 1st, when the list will be closed.

HONGKONG TRADE.

Chamber of Commerce Report.

The Fortnightly Price Current and Market Report, published by the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, states:—

Cotton Piece Goods and Fancy Cotton Goods.—There is no improvement in our market since our last report and local prices have declined all round despite a firm Home market.

Cotton Yarn.—There was an enquiry for some special chops which was met eagerly at easier rates. At the close prices are firm. Quotations are:—No. 10s at \$175/210. No. 12s at \$190/217. No. 16s at \$220/235. No. 20s at \$237/265. Arrivals 1,000 bales. Sales 2,000 bales. Shipments nil. Unsold stock 6,000 bales. Bargains 15,000 bales.

Raw Cotton.—Prices have further strengthened. India staples now stand at \$50/62 while the China descriptions are quoted at \$58/65 per picul.

Metals.—A small sale of Galvanized Wire 18/22 G. June Shipment at \$22.00 is reported. Other lines have been neglected. Prices locally continue nominal. There seems to be very little enquiry from up country, and dealers are content to hold on to their present stocks.

Sugar.—Market active and excited.

Flour Market Report.—Stock: About 240,000 sack. Quotations:—Japanese 2nd Patent, \$3.80 per sack; Japanese 3rd Patent, \$3.75 per sack; Japanese Straight, \$3.80 per sack; Shanghai Flour, \$3.85 per sack; Australian No. 1, \$3.85 per sack; Australian No. 2, \$3.80 per sack.

HONGKONG FINANCES.

The Hongkong Treasury issues the following revised financial statement for the month of November, 1917:—

Balance of Assets and Liabilities on 31st October, 1917 ... \$3,621,330.22
Revenue from 1st to 30th November, 1917 ... 1,549,795.47

Expenditure from 1st to 30th November, 1917 ... 1,630,273.62

Balance, ... \$3,540,852.07

For the Troops.

With reference to the recent announcement of the cinema performances for the troops and their friends at the Royal Artillery Theatre, it should have been stated that "The Fatal Ring" is being presented by the kind permission of the management of the Victoria Theatre. A highly successful entertainment was given on Thursday evening, and similar shows will be presented on Wednesday and Saturday evenings at 8 o'clock from March 27th onwards, the "Fatal Ring" being screened on Wednesday.

DAIRY FARM NEWS.

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A Variety to suit all tastes.

OXFORD SAUSAGES.

CAMBRIDGE "

PORK "

BEEF "

&c.,

LIVER SAUSAGES.

BOLOGNE, HEAD CHEESE.

BLACK PUDDING.

WHITE "

&c.,

&c.

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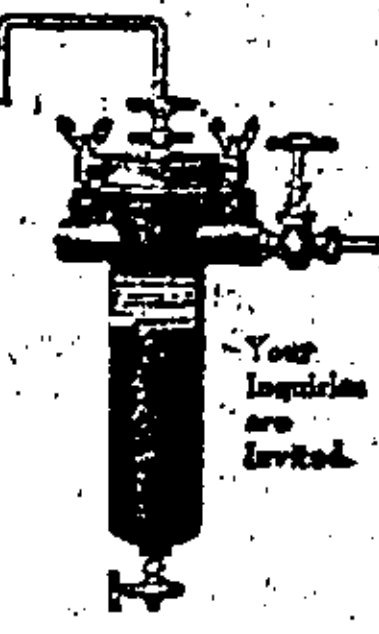
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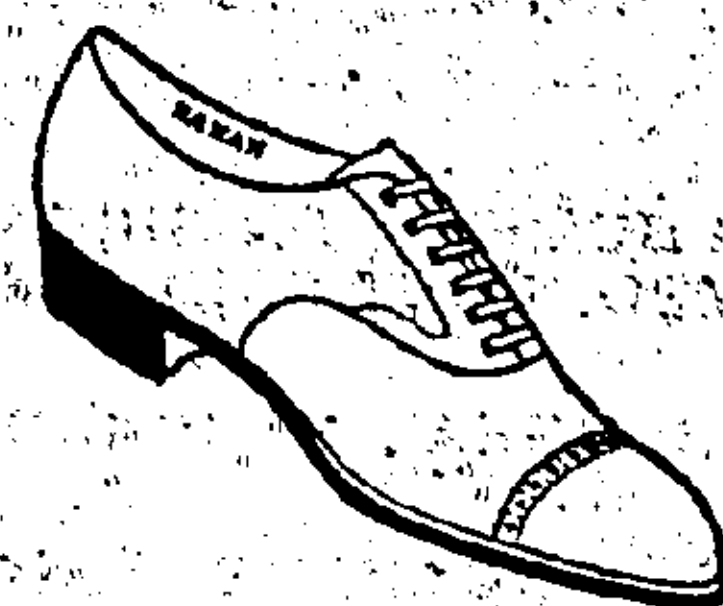
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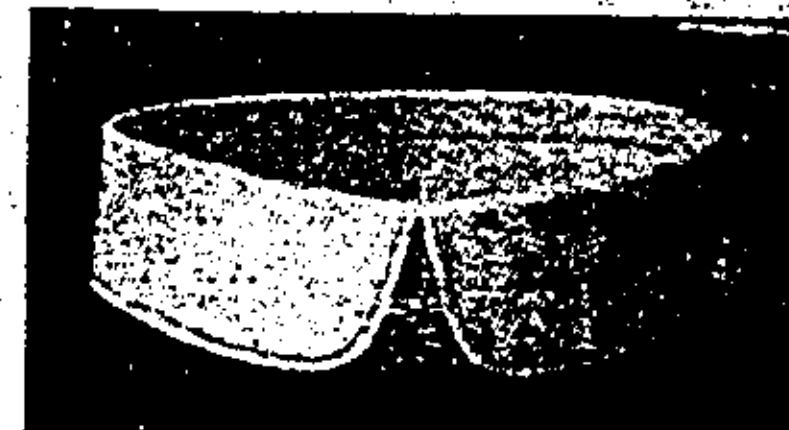
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Hongkong, 1st April, 1917.E. V. D. Parr,
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Destination.	Steamer & Displacement.	Sailing Dates.
SHANGHAI, KOBE & YOKOHAMA	*Shidzuoka Maru T. 12,500	FRI, 29th Mar. at 11 a.m.
	*Kaga Maru T. 12,500	SAT, 13th Apr. at 11 a.m.
	*Aki Maru T. 12,500	SAT, 20th Apr. at 11 a.m.
NAGASAKI, KOBE & YOKOHAMA	*Tango Maru T. 12,500	SAT, 20th Apr. at 11 a.m.
	*Kirin Maru T. 12,500	FRI, 18th May at 11 a.m.
SHANGHAI, MOJI & KOBE	*Rangoon Maru T. 8,000	2nd, Mar. WEDNESDAY, 27th Mar.

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TOYO MARU	22,000	3rd Apr.
NIPPON MARU	11,000	18th Apr.
SHINYU MARU	22,000	27th Apr.
PERSIA MARU	15,000	10th May
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For	Steamers.	To Sall.
SHANGHAI	Yingchow	23rd Mar. at 3 p.m.
TIENSIN	Kueichow	25th Mar. at noon.
AMOY & SHANGHAI	Suryang	25th Mar. at 10 a.m.
SHANGHAI	Sinkiang	28th Mar. at 3 p.m.

SHANGHAI LINE.—PASSENGERS, MAILS AND CARGO. Excellent Saloon accommodation. Amplest Electric Light and Fans in Saloon and State-rooms. Regular schedule service between Canton, Hongkong and Shanghai, taking Cargo on through Bills of Lading to all Yangtze and Northern China Ports. Passengers are Landed in Shanghai, avoiding the inconvenience of transshipment at Woosung.

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Hongkong March 23, 1918.

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CHINA and JAPAN.

Steamer	From	Expected on or about	Will leave on or about	To
Serakarta	Java	in port	1st Apr.	Saigon
Tjipanas	Java	27th Mar.	6th Apr.	Amoy & S'hai
Tjimanok	Java	29th Mar.	6th Apr.	Amoy & S'hai

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HONGKONG & SOUTH CHINA COAST PORT SERVICE.

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FOR SWATOW, AMOY AND FOOSHOW AND RETURN.

(Occupying 9 to 10 days.)

Steamships.	Captain	Leaving.
Haikun	A. E. Hodgins	FRI, 29th Mar. at noon.
Haikong	J. W. Evans	THURS, 4th Apr. at noon.

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Arrivals and Departures from the Company's Wharf (near Blake Pier).

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INDO-CHINA STEAM NAVIGATION CO., LTD.

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For	Steamship	On
HAIPHONG	Taksang	Fri, 29th Mar. at 7 a.m.
TIENSIN	Chipshing	Sun, 24th Mar. at 10 a.m.
MANILA	Yuensang	Fri, 29th Mar. at 3 p.m.
MANILA	Loongsang	Fri, 5th Apr. at 3 p.m.
CALCUTTA LINE	Three sailings per month from Hongkong to Calcutta, calling at Singapore and Penang.	

Returning from Calcutta steamers proceed to Kobe and Moji, frequently calling at Shanghai. These steamers have excellent passenger accommodation, are fitted with Electric Light and carry a fully qualified surgeon. This line is temporarily discontinued owing to the war. Particulars on application.

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Agents.

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SHIPPING NEWS.

Freight Market.

The fortnightly freight market report of Messrs. Wheelock & Co., Shanghai, issued March 14, states:—As regards our Home-ward Freight market there is no change to report since last writing. There is still a large quantity of Government contract cargo to go forward so that all available space is being held at the call of the Government and merchants must not expect any relief for another month or so. As regards the Continent there is a Japanese steamer advertised to load for Marseilles in June next and we understand her rate is 120/- per ton net for general cargo. Via Pacific—Cargo is scarcer than ever now to the United States owing to stagnation in the American markets and the numerous Government restrictions on imports; the consequence is that steamers on this berth are unable to fill their allotments and ocean freights are weak. The date of the increase in rail rates overland has not yet been confirmed but we understand that they will not be raised at any rate before the middle of April. Coastwise—The uncertainty in the political situation now existing in China is having a very disturbing effect on the coasting trade and merchants are restricting their operations in consequence, particularly up North. Tientsin has opened and Newchwang is expected to do so shortly, but there is no great movement of cargo expected immediately for the reasons aforesaid. The Hongkong market continues to improve and the Saigon-Hongkong rate has been up as high as \$1.90 per picul but has since declined to \$1.60 again with but little inquiry.

Interred Sea Apprentices.

With regard to the position of sea apprentices who have fallen into the hands of the enemy, the Imperial Merchant Service Guild having had various requests from their friends and relatives that they should represent the matter of their being berthed and treated on the same footing as officers to the Government, addressed a letter to the Prisoners of War Department at Downing Street on this matter. A reply was recently received from the Board of Trade enclosing a copy of a letter which was sent to a firm of shipowners on this same question by the Prisoners of War Department at the Foreign Office a little while ago, and as the matter is one of some interest as regards the position of these boys we take the following extract out of the letter:—"Under the terms of Annex 3 of the Hague Agreement which has been ratified by the respective Governments, the German representative declared that 'subject to reciprocity, those British subject who are youthful and who are captives in German hands shall be separated from the rest of the prisoners of war and put in a separate block in one camp to themselves, they shall be kept away from all unfavourable influence, to which they might be subjected by being brought into contact with adult prisoners of war, their further education and instruction shall also be provided for. On the 30th ultimo the Netherlands Legation at Berlin were informed for communication to the German Government, that his Majesty's Government were prepared to give the necessary assurance of reciprocity in respect to the above-mentioned declaration and the proposal that the application of Annex 3 should be confined to prisoners of war who are civilians (including all members of the Mercantile Marine), and subject to that limitation, should include all British and German boys who were in captivity on the 31st August, 1917, and were then under twenty-one years of age, as also boys who might be captured subsequent to that date and were under twenty-one years of age at the date of capture. It was further proposed that all those prisoners who became entitled to benefit by this agreement should continue to do so for the duration of the war. It is assumed that all apprentices of the Mercantile Marine will by virtue of their age, be eligible for special treatment provided for youthful prisoners of war. In their letter the Board of Trade state that they understand that his Majesty's Government are of opinion that in all the circumstances it is inadvisable to raise the question of the treatment of Government prisoners of war, and that the Government are of opinion that the treatment of such prisoners should be left to the discretion of the Government of the country to which they are sent."

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PERVERTED TRANSLATIONS: V.

TO SPRING.

[Diffuse a snow; redent jam gramine campo
Arboribus comas.]

Winter is over, they tell me. I hadn't observed it before, But I sat and I froze in the thickest of clo'es with curtains drawn over the door. Winter is over and done with. But what I would much like to know Is, why the—well well—does'n't somebody tell the Clerk of the weather it's so?

March came in like a lion; roaring great fire in each room, While the boy brought hot toddy to warm master's body and try and dispel master's gloom. Thereafter the temperature lifted and I bought me a new sun-hat But a cold in the head that confined me to bed was all that I caught out o' that!

It really is very disgraceful! Why the deuce is'n't Spring up to time? Though it ought to be hot, its decidedly not, in our lovely 'sub-tropical' clime: Some people pretend that Spring's horrid. I cannot agree, I'm afraid, For if you're rheumatic your words grow emphatic with forty degrees in the shade.

In the Spring—so the poet informs us—one's thoughts should turn lightly to love, But to spoon when your nose is as red as a rose—oh, perishing heavens above! The Government may take no action (if everything's true that I hear), But I do think the Chamber of Commerce might see that Spring's punctual next year!

R.W.H.

RACECOURSE DISASTER.

Jury Satisfied on one Point.

The enquiry into the sad catastrophe which occurred at the Racecourse, Happy Valley, on February 26, was continued at the Police Court this morning, being conducted by Mr. J. M. Wood, acting as Coroner. The following jurymen were also present:—Messrs. A. H. Bristow (foreman), J. H. Wallace, and W. O. Jack.

Mr. M. K. Lo appeared on behalf of a number of Chinese who lost relatives in the disaster; Mr. F. A. L. Bowley represented the contractor, the Hok, who built the stands; Mr. D. V. Stevenson appeared for the lessees of the Unity Stand. Mr. G. H. Wakeman, Crown Solicitor, was also present.

The Coroner said that before the enquiry commenced the jury would like him to make a statement on their behalf. This was to the effect that the evidence which had been offered up to the present time seemed to be rather in favour of the conclusion that fire broke out subsequent to the collapse, and the jury were not anxious to hear any further evidence confirmatory to that evidence. If anyone wanted to offer contradictory evidence to that they could be heard. The evidence would also tend to show that fire broke out anything from 20 seconds to three minutes after the collapse, and further the evidence would tend to show that the fire broke out at one point in the row of the stands, somewhere in the neighbourhood of sheds 8, 9 and 10. Any evidence confirmatory to this idea would not be required any further. If any evidence disagreed with this he and the jury would be pleased to have it. It seemed that the question of the main fence behind sheds had been sufficiently discussed. It was pushed down when the people escaped and its construction was not very important. With reference to the sitting of the Court, it was not convenient to sit on Monday morning, but the hearing would be continued at 2.15 in the afternoon when they might sit until 5 o'clock. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday it was proposed to sit as usual.

Mr. Wakeman—I quite agree with what you have said. There is only one point and that is I have some further photographs which would confirm that statement about the fire.

The Hon. Mr. McI. Messer, C.S.P. and Superintendent of the Fire Brigade, said while he had held these positions no precautions had been taken against fire as regarded the stands. There were no regulations requiring precautions;

(The regulations were read). The regulations were kept, except for the one prohibiting smoking, which he was afraid was not kept. The regulations applied to all theatrical buildings including temporary ones excepting Chinese theatres which were exempted under Section 7 of the Theatres Ordinance. He produced a copy of the permit in use at Chinese theatres. The form of permit for temporary buildings provided for the enforcement of fire precautions by witness. Only single-storied stands were used for theatres. The whole point in the fire precautions was the provision of adequate exits. Except by cutting a gap it was almost impossible to extinguish a fire in a match shed except in the initial stage. The duty of the Fire Brigade, when the fire had a good hold, was to protect the adjoining building. It was the duty of the Fire Brigade to extinguish fires and protect life and property. The general rule in theatrical matches was in addition to buckets for a despatch box to be sent in charge of two Chinese firemen, by the Fire Brigade, to be in continuous attendance at the expense of the lessees. This was sometimes done for theatrical performances in permanent buildings. The Fire Brigade did not attend the Tai Ping Theatre. That had its own appliances. So had the City Hall to a certain extent. The Brigade attended at the Charity Fair at Murray Parade ground, on "Heather Day," when the proceedings continued at night, one of the performances being theatrical. Theatrical performances in Chinese matches were, he would point out, night shows as well as day shows. It was only where fire precautions were compelled by law that he insisted on persons in the absence of other provision, making use of the Fire Brigade. He might point out that stationing men in matches left less men at the station—a bad principle and not in the best interests of the public since it left less men able to respond to an alarm of fire.

By Mr. Wakeman:—It came to this, that no precautions regarding the racecourse sheds had been considered. He was at the Peak at the time of the collapse, receiving a message from Inspector Brown. The pressure from fire hydrant No. 2 was insufficient for any practicable use. The flow of water from hydrants 3 and 4 was insufficient to enable the motor pump to work one branch. At 3.30 p.m. the sheds were burnt out except for the upright posts and there was no chance of saving any life. Shortly after 4 o'clock the fire float arrived. There was over a third of a mile of hose to lay out. She started pumping at 4 o'clock. After further evidence, the enquiry was adjourned.

DRINK PROHIBITION.

Discussion in Indian Legislative Council.

At a meeting of the Imperial Legislative Council of India recently, the Hon. Mr. B. N. Sarma moved:—That the Government may be pleased to accept and declare total prohibition of the use of all alcoholic and intoxicating liquors and drugs to be the aim and object of its policy, and to so direct its administrative methods as to achieve the end in view at an early date.

A number of the Official members left the Council Chamber when this motion was brought forward.

Mr. Sarma said he understood the Government policy to be one of alcohol in moderation, and he proceeded to quote Lord Roberts, Lord Wolseley and argued that the Temperance Movement in the British Army had effected a great improvement in the soldiers' health, and proceeded to quote authorities to the effect that alcohol was poison. He stated that there had been an increase in the consumption of drink, and to a house which at first appeared distinctly bored he proceeded to give a good many figures and statistics. He said the proposal would not dislocate finances. He only wanted the Government to declare total prohibition as the ultimate goal of its policy.

At present the Government policy was to discourage excess, but provided drink for the moderate drinker. According to this policy the minority of moderate drinkers tyrannised over the majority of abstainers, tempting them to drink from the shop in the locality. He proceeded to show the disastrous effect of drink on a people, and quoted opinions in support of his contention. In England, he said, the privilege of moderate drinking had been abused and the demon of drink reared rampant. Even now when the Empire was in peril, he was alarmed at the increase, however small, in Akbari revenue in India. He hoped Indian Members would be true to the traditions of their religious ordinances, and Europeans would realise the responsibility that rested on them.

Sir Hamilton Grantrose spoke for the silent and inarticulate body of moderate drinkers to which he belonged. He spoke strongly against Mr. Sarma's perpetual habit of bringing forward counsels of perfection, and attempting sweeping and unnecessary reforms. He caused several laughs by his caustic replies at Mr. Sarma's expense. He made a spirited defence of moderation in drink, and he hoped Mr. Sarma would see his resolution was unnecessary. Sir Hamilton Grantrose sympathised with Mr. Sarma's views, but said the Council was feeling tired with the Utopian and nebulous schemes brought up from time to time. Nobody was ignorant of the result of horrible excesses, but if Mr. Sarma wanted any reform, he should have come forward with proposals of modification of the Excise Law, instead of trying to interfere with individual freedom. The resolution was unnecessary, and calculated to make an already sad world sadder.

Pandit Malaviya said he wished Sir Hamilton Grant had looked to the question more seriously. The question was one which affected the vast mass of the people who contributed to the Excise Revenue. The proposition of the mover was not a wild one. He quoted statistics to show how, gradually but steadily, the Excise Revenue increased from 1874 till the present time. The right policy was to adopt total prohibition as the aim and end of the British Excise Policy. He caused another laugh by stating that 25 years of moderate drink was not a sufficient time to judge whether alcohol was dangerous or not. He considered the motion now before the House of extreme importance. The right policy of the Government was to aim at total prohibition in India, and he laid much stress on the fact that two-thirds of the American States were now temperance States.

Mr. S. M. Banerjee said he was a bit of a partisan in the present question. He was a teetotaler. He knew that some of India's most illustrious men fell victims to the evil. He referred to the campaign against the "out-still" system in Bengal. Mr. Sarma's resolution embodied an ideal which could be attained. The resolution, he maintained, was not nebulous. There should be a progressive movement towards the attainment of the ideal. Mr. Fagan said the resolution was far-reaching, and based on assumptions of a debatable nature. The argument seemed to be that the use of alcohol and drugs was morally indefensible, and therefore it was the duty of Government to prohibit their use as of all that was morally indefensible. The subject has been endlessly debated, and there was endless disagreement among moralists on the point of the abuse of alcohol and intoxicants, and their moderate and reasonable use had been placed on the same level. The mover had referred to the case of Russia, America and England where, Mr. Fagan maintained, a degree of prohibition had only been possible as a result of conditions entailed by the war without parallel in the world's history, and was therefore no argument for a normal time.

Sir Dinshaw Wacha said he had been agitating this matter for the last forty years, and had often been abused by the Government officials for that. In the matter of revenue the Government of India were incorrigible and irreconcilable. The Excise Act had been in operation since 1878, and the result had been maximum revenue, but not minimum consumption. The Government policy on Excise had failed. He concluded by saying: Let us try our best to bring about the reform ourselves, independently of the Government.

Sir Claude Hill said the growth of the illicit use of alcohol did not imply an aggregate growth of alcohol. On the contrary, there was a considerable decrease, for instance in Guzerat, by adopting methods which considerably restrained their use.

Nawab Ali Chaudhury advocated total prohibition, feeling which he would make the shops rarer. The evil of drink was doing havoc among the labourers.

Dr. Spru said several false issues had been raised in the debate. Certainly Mr. Sarma did not want the Government policy of many many years to be upset by a stroke of the pen.

Sir John Donald said that drinking was prevalent among certain classes, for instance, the Sikhs. Was it meant by the resolution that drinking should be prohibited among them?

Pandit Malaviya:—May I remind the Honourable Member that drinking is prohibited among the Sikhs, by the injunctions of the Gurus?

Sir George Barnes replying, quoted the views of Government published in 1905, and 1914 on the subject. He wondered why the mover had not included tobacco in his resolution, but probably he was anticipating Mr. Sarma who would bring up another resolution about tobacco. He thought Sir D. E. Wacha had taken an exaggerated view of the whole case, and quoted statistics to "contravert" him. It would not be right to prohibit alcohol among certain classes, who used alcohol in moderation. The mover of the resolution had minimised the effects of illicit practices, which, in his opinion, was a more important question. He pointed out in detail various difficulties, financial and otherwise, if the resolution were accepted. Concluding, he said: The Government's Excise policy had been pitched up at a very slow pace. There was no short cut to the attainment of the object, which the mover had in view. He proceeded to answer several of the remarks made by various members and quoted figures showing that consumption had fallen. Mr. Sarma had too minimised the danger of illicit manufacture, which would become serious if total prohibition were resorted to. He said the preventive staff would be very expensive, and the measure might cause a good deal of mistrust among the poorer classes. The Government policy was, he concluded, a maximum revenue from a minimum consumption, and he was unable to accept the resolution on behalf of the Government.

FRENCH HOTELS.

To be Reserved for French Citizens.

M. Urbain Gobier, writing in the *Journal*, applauds the resolution which the hotelkeepers of France have proposed as the basis of fresh legislation for their industry, with the object of preventing any hotel in France from being owned, managed or financed by any except French citizens or the citizens of allied countries who give proofs of their loyalty. Before the war, he says, all over the country, in the little tourist centres as well as in Paris, a number of hotels belonged to German societies, or were financed by German capital, while even in French hotels, German managers, maids and waiters swarmed in the guise of Swiss, Belgians or inhabitants of Luxembourg. Such a state of affairs must come to an end, in the interests of national safety.

How are French employees who speak French correctly and other languages badly inferior to the Germans whose knowledge of other tongues than their own is also slight, asks M. Gobier? The French will be superior when they have had an opportunity of gaining the requisite knowledge. The syndicate of hotelkeepers shows a lively sense of the fitness of things by putting French owners and employers and those from the allied countries on a similar footing. All the same, he thinks it desirable that the French should understand the possibilities of the hotel-keeping industry, and should keep the advantages of it for themselves, at least in France. After the war, he points out, many visitors will come to the country; they will spend large sums and the country should have the benefit instead of letting the profits go to companies and proprietors belonging even to the allied countries. Let them see to it that all these business people and visitors when they come to France, find France everywhere and do not begin by encountering a different atmosphere in their hotels. It would seem as if the French could not even develop their own country, and Paris would give them that grievous sense of cosmopolitanism against which a struggle had been carried on in vain in the past, but which ought, henceforward, to be dissipated.

For financial and patriotic reasons it was eminently desirable to see that the hotels of France were really French. And since it is always well to extend the scope of a good method, M. Gobier would like to see the idea of the hotelkeepers syndicate made an example for all corporations. Past and present events show that the official police are unequal to the immensity of their task. If each corporation would police its own domain, if the French financiers would police the Bourse, if the journalists would police the press, and if all the other professions and workmen's syndicates would police their respective professions the great number of the scandals which alarmed them would never have occurred.

Spotted Fever.

For the twenty-four hours ended yesterday there were eighteen cases of spotted fever notified—all Chinese. Sixteen were in the city of Victoria. There were eight deaths.

Siam Resident's Death.

Mr. W. A. G. Tilleke, Attorney General for many years, the founder of the *Siam Observer* and a successful race horse owner, died on March 7 at Bangkok.

Mr. Sarma was glad he had received so much non-official support, and he argued that he was concerned with the national efficiency of India.

A FRIEND OF SPIES.

"Gerald Hamilton's" Gaoi Intrigue.

An order has been made by the Home Office for the internment of a well educated young man, of good family, who was sentenced to two years' imprisonment for a criminal offence early in 1916 in the name of Gerald Hamilton, an alias.

Hamilton was released from Brixton last month having earned by good conduct a remission of sentence. He was promptly rearrested under the Defence of the Realm Act for enemy association and returned to Brixton, where he will remain until the end of the war.

When first arrested in November 1915 Hamilton was occupying an expensively furnished flat in Dacre House, Westminster. The flat was raided by the police and military authorities. Hamilton was released on bail, two sureties of £1,000 each being offered, and allowed to go to Oxford, where he had friends. He also visited and stayed with a friend in Lancashire.

The first part of his sentence was served at Wormwood Scrubs. He was afterwards transferred to Brixton. At both places he entered into secret conversations with other prisoners and made statements which betrayed either an inordinate vanity and colossal imagination or an extraordinary acquaintance with a wide circle of German agents and spies ranging from Baron von Kuhlmann (who was in the German Embassy in London in 1914 and is now Foreign Secretary) to Roger Casement.

Hamilton claims many accomplishments and much acquaintance with cosmopolitan criminal circles. He has declared that he can speak seven languages, and has lived in Germany, Spain, Italy, Morocco and France. If his statements are true he knows worthless and dissolute men and women in half a dozen capitals. He was one of the associates of a young English baronet who committed suicide in Paris shortly before the war in circumstances which created a sensation at the time. Among strange criminals of whom he has spoken in terms of loss acquaintance is Captain Richard Gorges, who, after an erratic career in South Africa and Ireland, was sentenced to 15 years' penal servitude for the murder of a policeman in London.

At the time of his arrest in 1915 Hamilton was trying to obtain a consular appointment to represent Siam in Rome. He had previously been attached to the consulate of a South American Republic at Tangier. When his conduct there gave offence to the Government he went to Spain, where he claims to have made the acquaintance of Baron von Koenig, the principal German agent in that country. He has boasted that Koenig commissioned him to purchase 8,000 rifles in Morocco and ship them to Ireland. He has always been "interested" in Ireland and was anxious while in jail to get in touch with de Valera.

Among the prisoners in Brixton Gaoi with whom Hamilton was anxious, during his first confinement, to correspond was Alfred Hagn, a young Norwegian author who was sentenced to death on August 23 on charges of spying for Germany, a sentence which was afterwards commuted to one of penal servitude for life. Hagn was a member of the great German spy organisation in Bergen the leader of which, together with other Germans, was arrested early this year.

Hamilton, while in Brixton, also wrote a letter to Graeme Scott, who has since been removed to a lunatic asylum; Edward Hodgson, who escaped with Scott from Lidington in November 1916; and a notorious Hindu agent, one of the men engaged in promoting rebellion in the interests of Germany in India. Those outside with whom he tried to communicate included a Consul at the Hague and a notorious woman living in Holland who has at various times been the intimate friend of a German anarchist, a German spy, and Kahlmann.

Owing to his birth and education Hamilton has not been without friends in this country. While

GERMANY'S TAX BURDEN.

How Our Enemy is Restricted.

Zurich, Switzerland.—Germany has taken over in this war an immense financial burden, for the bearing of which she is not constitutionally organised. The immense army of officials forming the traditional elements of state-power are not officials of the German Empire. All these hundred thousands of state teachers, state clergy, police officials, and their leaders, right up to the professors of the universities, are neither paid nor controlled by the German Empire. They are officials of Prussia, Bavaria, Saxony. The social interests of this immense group of people, forming the natural governmental elements in the society, are not Imperial, but along the lines of the various twenty-five federated states.

The public property—railways, forests, agricultural lands, canals—all these, with a few exceptions in Alsace, do not belong to the German Empire. They belong to the various federated states, from which, therefore, depends the great army of officials, workmen, etc., of these economic institutions, forming the backbone of modern economy. The budget of these federated states is chiefly contributed by direct taxation.

Direct taxation in the federated states of Germany has been increased during the war, and German economists reckon that it will be necessary to increase still further the levy on property and income, on account of the new debts incurred through war. They estimate that this increase will make the taxes twenty-five marks per head of the population.

Besides, the federated states, towns, and other communities imposed direct taxes on property and income which amounted in the year 1913 to an average of thirty-eight marks per head of population in eighty-four towns of over 50,000 inhabitants, aggregating 15,000,000 people. Most of the German towns have increased salaries and wages of the officials and employees during the war, besides borrowing considerable sums to cover the assistance given to soldiers' families; so that it may be estimated that the communal direct taxation after the war will be fifty marks per head of the population.

Reckoning the German population at 64,000,000 after the war, the amount raised by direct taxation of the federated states and the communities will aggregate 4,800 milliard marks. German financiers and economists declare under these conditions the introduction of any direct taxation on the part of the Empire is quite impracticable.

Electric Bulb Thief.

A worker in the employ of the Electric Bureau of the Kobe City Office has been arrested on a charge of stealing from an occupied house in the city about 2,500 electric lamp bulbs and other electric fittings valued at ¥776.

Kobe's Spring Cleaning.

At present the citizens of Kobe are called upon to make a grand cleaning twice a year, in spring and autumn. The Public Health authorities at the City Office have now made a proposal to the police that only one thorough *o-aji* is necessary every year. This proposal is being considered by the authorities concerned.

he was still on bail in 1916 he claims to have received a letter from one of the pro-German group of M.P.s in the House of Commons assuring him that he would do all he could for him. In May 1916, while he was actually in goal, one of his friends, a man in Holy Orders, persuaded Mr. Philip Snowden, M.P., to write to the authorities pleading for the release of this "highly educated young man," who, it was suggested, was finding his imprisonment very painful and who desired, if released, to be "bathed"—for what purpose it was not stated—in another country.

GERMAN INTRIGUE
IN THE FAR EAST.Some of the False Statements
Refuted.

Dr. Tenaler, the head physician of St. Luke's Hospital, Tokyo, is in the United States to confer with the Board of Mission of the Protestant Episcopal Church concerning plans for enlargement of the hospital. Dr. Tenaler is regarded as one of the most distinguished foreign residents of Tokyo, and is interested in the development of the friendly relations between the United States and Japan. He writes in the New York Evening Post as follows:

The widespread suspicion and sceptical attitude of a large number of our American people toward the Japanese is astonishing, in view of the actual part Japan is playing in this war and her unquestionable friendship for us. On every side one hears the most unjust and absurd stories about the Japanese, and in almost every instance these stories may be traced to two fundamental causes: (1) A genuine ignorance on the part of the people of the United States of actual conditions in the Far East, and (2) the steady stream of poisoned articles and mis-statements about Japan which appear in our daily press and magazines.

Real ignorance on the one side and misrepresentation, much of it intentional, on the other, these are the two disturbing factors which are seriously interfering between Japan and the United States, and keeping up ill-will where there should be frank friendship and a sympathetic attitude in considering the problems which confront both nations. We seem to forget that Japan is not only the ally of Great Britain in this war, but that she is our ally as well, and apparently we fail to realize that every time we give credence to an unjust criticism of Japan we are directly giving assistance to Germany and are helping her establish just what she has paid large sums of money to accomplish, namely, trouble, and, if possible, war between Japan and the United States. Germany has steadily been at this game for the last ten years, and every American in the Far East knows it. So serious is this matter that we should make it a patriotic duty to believe nothing in the public press against Japan until we have investigated it and informed ourselves clearly as to the alleged fact in each accusation.

Strength of Japan's Army. For instance, just after Christmas there appeared in our daily press the statement that Japan has two and a half million soldiers who could be sent to the front at once if she would only consent to do so. (Some of the papers stated Japan had nine million soldiers. I saw this statement myself.) These statements are absolutely false. The Japanese army consists of twenty divisions, comprising 250,000 men, no more and no less. It is true that Japan could in a few months mobilize perhaps as many as 700,000 soldiers by calling on her first and second army reserve, but she has neither modern arms nor equipment for such an army, and no way of providing them. It is simply absurd to talk about Japan having a standing army of two or three million men. The annual army budget provides for only 250,000 men. The accuracy of my statement is open to any one who will take the trouble to investigate it. Incidentally several Cabinets have been wrecked during the last six years because the Army Party has wanted provision for two more divisions added to this budget, and the Japanese people have refused to stand for the addition.

A favourite criticism is, "Why does not Japan do her part in this war?" What nation established peace on the whole Pacific and on the Indian Ocean during the first year of this war? What nation now maintains the peace of the Far East? Japan has for two years co-operated with the Allied fleet on the Mediterranean and not improbably on the Atlantic as well. Japan does not do things half way, and the history of her navy is definite proof that she is playing her part well. Just how well, we as non-combatants are not allowed to know.

What Japan did to Aid
Allies.

Support Japan had not promptly gone into this war in August, 1914, and compelled at the sacrifice of her men and money the capitulation of Tsingtau and the destruction of German interests in Shantung. What would have become of the open ports of China and India, with Germany in possession of a protected harbour on the China coast and German cruisers at large in the Pacific and Indian Oceans? Also it was largely Japan that drove Germany out of her possessions in the South Sea Islands, and Japan to-day is maintaining the peace of the Orient and by the co-operation of her navy allowing Great Britain to hold together her fleets on the Atlantic and not divide them in the face of the enemy. In this connection is well worth while to remember that if Japan had not loyally and promptly supported England in the beginning of this war it would have been necessary at that time for Great Britain to divide her navy to protect her colonies. Such necessity would almost certainly have brought disaster to the cause of the Allies. Could the German navy have been bottled up so successfully as it has been without the co-operation of Japan? The answer is obvious. Does not America owe a special debt of gratitude to Japan because she has maintained peace on the Pacific, and because, thanks to her, our trade routes in the East have been kept wide open throughout this terrific war? If this gratitude exists one hardly ever hears it mentioned. Germany knows these things better than we do, and acknowledges them—in a different way. Does any one question, who knows the situation, that during this war definite overtures have been made by Germany toward Japan asking for a separate peace? I do not mean hints, I mean clear-cut propositions offering a separate peace with Japan, and certain well-while compensation in the Pacific, if Japan would only withdraw her help to the Allies in this war and assume a neutral attitude. After this war is over, it is to be hoped that secret diplomacy will play no further important part in international politics, and one of the facts which will be made public then will be the continued loyalty of Japan to the cause of the Allies and her treaty with Great Britain in the face of more than one severe temptation from the Central Powers.

Question of Sending Troops.

I know that some of the most able and representative statesmen of Japan have for more than a year strongly urged sending a quota of Japanese troops either to the eastern or western front. Baron Sakatani, well known in this country, Japan's special envoy to the Economic Conference in Paris, is one of the strong upholders of this policy. The leaders of Japan and Great Britain are in very close touch; is it not probable that those who hold control in the affairs of the Allies do not think it is wise at this time to deplete Japan of two or three hundred thousand soldiers, with Russia in revolution, and Germany, to say the least, on very intimate relations with that country? Also it is questionable whether a Japanese army of a few hundred thousand men would be of any great service on the western front on account of their relatively limited number. It is certainly true that to send such an army such a distance and maintain it from Japan, which would be necessary, would be an immense undertaking. Many army experts state it is impossible with the limited number of ships at the disposal of the Allies. Ships are needed almost more than men at this time, and would the Allied Councils agree to such a sacrifice for, after all, relatively only a few soldiers? It must be remembered that it takes seven weeks from Yokohama to Marseilles via the Suez Canal. Certainly no one knowing the conditions would advocate sending Japanese soldiers to the Russian front at this time.

Coupled with this question of sending Japanese troops to France one constantly hears the unjust assertion that Japan will not send her troops because her demands in compensation are more than the Allies are willing to pay. In other words, that Japan is trying

to make capital of the war and force her allies to give her certain concessions before she will help with her army. Never have I been able to secure from such critics one single fact to support this contemptible and unfair accusation. I have lived in Japan eighteen years, and I know her people in all walks of life, and I do not believe one word of such a statement. It is in direct conflict with everything I know and have observed of her individual and national standards of honour, and unless backed by definite proof, no one should make such an allegation unless they desire to play into the hands of Germany.

The Alleged Designs upon
China.

There are two other favourite stories against Japan one hears on every side. One is the alleged attack on the sovereignty of China in the Sino-Japanese treaty of 1915. Before criticising this treaty we should at least read it. It is not fair to hear criticisms against this treaty giving only a part of the context, and then pass on the judgment of the writer as infallible. For instance, practically all of the criticism of this treaty has been levelled against so-called "fifth group of demands." These critical writers never mention the fact that this fifth group was not a part of the proposed treaty at all, but that it formed merely the expressed wishes of the Imperial Japanese Government, and that the duly accredited representative of Japan in Peking, Mr. Hiroki, was clearly so instructed before the treaties were submitted to China for negotiation. This is a very important point, and one entirely ignored by those who wish for any reason to injure the relations between Japan and the United States. The following is the actual wording of the instructions sent to Mr. Hiroki by his Government concerning this fifth group in the negotiations:

"As regards the proposals contained in the fifth group, they are presented as the wishes of the Imperial Government. The matters which are dealt with under this category are entirely different in character from those which are included in the first four groups."

Future Disposition of Tsingtau. The other story has to do with the return of Kiaochow (Tsingtau) to China at the end of this war. There is widespread disbelief here in the United States that Tsingtau will be returned, and definite statements are constantly made that Japan has no idea or intention of giving back Tsingtau to China after the war. Again let us consult the exact negotiations with China, and learn what Japan has promised under treaty. The official letter from Mr. Hiroki, representing the Japanese Government in Peking to the Chinese Minister of Foreign Affairs, dealing with this point, is as follows:

Peking, May 25, 1915. Mr. Minister: In the name of the Imperial Government, I have the honour to make the following declaration to your Excellency's Government:

If, upon the conclusion of the present war, the Japanese Government should be given an absolutely free disposal of the leased territory of Kiaochow Bay, they will return the said leased territory to China, subject to the following conditions:

(1) The opening of the whole of Kiaochow as a commercial port;

(2) The establishment of a Japanese settlement in the locality to be designated by the Japanese Government;

(3) Establishment, if desired by the Powers, of an international settlement.

(4) Arrangements to be made, before the return of the said territory is effected, between the Japanese and Chinese Governments, with respect to the disposal of German public establishments, and properties, and with regard to the other conditions and procedures.

These words are very clear, and for my part I have not a doubt that Japan will return Tsingtau to China as promised. Neither has any one any right to doubt the sincerity of this promise because Japan has always been scrupulously true to her treaties and to her international agreements. The provisions 2 and 3 regarding establishing a Japanese

settlement and other international settlements in Tsingtau if so desired by the Powers, is merely a repetition of the present arrangement in Shanghai, Hankow, and other ports where there are British, French, Italian, and other national settlements with extra-territorial rights. We exacted the same privilege in Japan (Yokohama, Kobe, etc.) until 1900, when extra-territorial jurisdiction was withdrawn. A close and unbiased study of this treaty between China and Japan, made in May, 1915, will demonstrate that Japan was not unjust in her demands, considering her interests in Manchuria, Korea, and Formosa, and the menace of the so-called "manifest destiny in the Far East" of Russia and Germany. European nations have established and proceeded upon the principle that territorial proximity creates special relations between countries, and we have no right to deny Japan this privilege when it is constantly put into practice and enforced by the leading nations of the world. We must think internationally if we are to judge these questions fairly.

American Desire for Friend-
ship.

I believe that every loyal American citizen wants friendship with Japan, and would be willing to go to considerable trouble to further it if definite opportunity for service in such a good cause were offered, and yet many of these same loyal American citizens lend a willing ear to these absurd stories against Japan and others like them, simply because they read them in public print or hear them through idle gossip from people who, like themselves, do not know what they are talking about. This no time for idle gossip, when such gossip impugns the motives of one of our loyal allies, and brings unjust suspicion and ill-feeling where it is not deserved, and where it not only hurts our international life, but where it directly helps the cause of the Central Powers in this war. There are a certain number of people who are paid by the German Government to keep these stories against Japan before the American public. The Government of the United States, and Japan sincerely desire the maintenance of the friendly relations which exist between the two countries; and are we doing our part as patriotic citizens to further these good relations by casting groundless suspicion on our Japanese allies?

CALIFORNIA AND
CHINESE LABOUR.Union of Producers and
Consumers Formed.

San Francisco, January 30.—California has again been coquetting with the vexed and time-honored question of Chinese labour, this time, however, with reference to the needs of its farms and fruit ranches rather than with regard to industry in general.

As far back as November 23 the California Fruit Growers' Association, in session at Sacramento, adopted with enthusiasm and practical unanimity a resolution calling upon the Federal Government to permit the importation, for the period of the war, and for farm purposes only, of a sufficient supply of Chinese or other foreign labour to enable farmers to work the land already under cultivation, and to bring under tillage extensive areas now unproductive.

The situation with regard to farm labour undoubtedly is, and for more than a year has been, acute. Between the draft on the one hand and the demands of factories and shipyards on the other, farm help of any sort, even the most indifferent, has become increasingly scarce. It is not simply a question of wages, although farm wages have advanced by leaps and bounds during the past three years; nor is it merely a question of feeding such labourers as receive their board as a part of their compensation. It has been, and is, for many farmers, a plain question of getting any help at all. The efforts of the State to provide scientific education in agriculture and to improve agricultural methods

have not resulted in keeping young men on the farms. One of the speakers at the Sacramento convention cited, as a typical illustration, the case of Fresno. Fresno is a city of over 25,000 inhabitants, the commercial centre of a region almost exclusively agricultural, and a region, too, as it happens, where a majority of the farmers own their farms. Not one of the graduates of the Fresno High School for the last five years, the speaker declared, has gone back to farm work.

On December 13 a State Committee on Farm Labour, appointed in October by Professor Thomas F. Hunt, dean of the College of Agriculture of the University of California, reported that while the farmers of California are "as bitterly opposed as any other class to the introduction of labourers, regardless of nationality, who cannot by assimilation become part of the good citizenry (sic) or of the nation," the present crisis nevertheless demanded "the importation of labour of Oriental or other nationality"; and that, of such labour, the Chinese were the most fit. Such labourers should, however, the Committee declared, be deported at the end of the war, and "their labour while here should be so supervised as not to reduce below a fair and reasonable point wages paid American labour, giving due consideration to the maintenance of the American standard of living."

The report of the Committee is interesting, not merely because it advocates a return to the coolie system which was prohibited by Federal statute in 1862, but also because it seems to imply that the wages of American farm labour are at present above "a fair and reasonable point." The latter contention no California farmer would to-day be disposed to question.

The demand voiced by the Committee seems to have represented principally the wishes of the large farmers and fruit growers of the State, of commercial or financial interests whose loans or investments are endangered by a prospect of untitled land, small crops, or slender profits, and of patriotic persons who desire to see an increased agricultural production under the pressure of war necessities, rather than of the farmer class as a whole. The Pasadena Board of Trade, for example, had adopted a resolution, which was sent to Congress, in favour of Chinese labour, some two weeks before the report of the Committee was made public. Additional prominence was given to the demand in the northern part of the State by Judge Elbert H. Gary, of the United States Steel Corporation, who declared on January 5, in a speech before the Commercial Club of San Francisco, that the United States should "immediately" draw from Oriental or other sources, "to the extent needed," such men as it required in order to cope with the shortage of labour.

On the other hand, neither of these suggestions met with the approval of the State Council of Defence or the State Food Administration, and neither, apparently, has been received with much favour by the press. It has pointed out that any serious proposal in Congress to modify the Chinese-exclusion laws would be certain to provoke a long and possibly bitter controversy, the outcome of which would be more than doubtful; and that, even if the legal obstacles were removed, the shortage of shipping, not to speak of the time necessary to arrange for extensive importations, would make it impracticable to bring in enough Chinese to effect materially the farm-labour situation in 1918. Advantage has also been taken of the proposal to urge that, if the farmers would exert themselves to provide better living conditions for the labourers whom they employ, including such elementary necessities as clean and sanitary housing, suitable food at fair prices, open contracts with no "strings" attached to them, and equitable conditions generally, enough labour would be attracted to the farms from less important or well-paid industries, and from the ranks of occasional workers, whose "eggheads" number are still considerable in California, to afford appreciable relief, at least for the time being.

In any such discussion, however imperative the industrial situation which prompts it, the attitude of organised labour is of prime importance. On this point there has just been a new development of marked significance.

After some weeks of consideration, three of the largest and most powerful organisations in the State, namely, the California division of the Farmers' Educational and Co-operative Union of America, Inc., the Pacific Co-operative League, Inc., and the State Federation of Labour, have united to form the California Union of Producers and Consumers. The declared purpose of the new organisation is "to bring joint action to bear on pressing legislative changes; to further public ownership of all public utilities, including transportation and communication; to free the land and society from privileges and monopoly and to provide a practical plan of co-operation for the equitable distribution of food and other necessities of life."

The California Union of Producers and Consumers represents the most important recent success of organised labour, acting through its State Federation, to organize, along familiar lines, the farmers of the State. The references, in the declaration of principles just quoted, to public ownership of transportation and other utilities, and to the freeing of "land society" from privilege and monopoly, are not an echo of the slogan which the Hearst Examiner prints daily on its front page, but of a widespread demand for a collective industrialism to which every revelation of private or corporate misconduct, like those which the investigation of the Chicago meat packers is unearthing, gives fresh impetus. When labour unions and farmers' associations join forces, the industrial history of California enters upon a new phase.

One of the principles of the California Union of Producers and Consumers is that no "public action" in the name of the Union is to be taken, "except when the three component parts of the Union shall have agreed upon such action." The first "public action," as it happens, relates to the question of Chinese labour. The Union, at its meeting on the 23d instant, when the organisation was perfected, adopted a resolution, to be forwarded to the Governor, asking for a complete labour census of the State, together with a careful estimate of the probable labour needs of the ensuing crop year, before any steps with reference to the importation of Chinese or other foreign labour be taken. This entirely sensible procedure is not only likely to check the pro-Chinese agitation for the time being, but also to give the State Council of Defence an opportunity to show what it can do in dealing with the labour situation during the next few months. As the Council of Defence has lately been severely criticised by one of its former members for incompetency and negligence in general, and for disregard of labour conditions in particular, it may well welcome the opportunity to justify itself to the people of the State.—William Macdonald in the New York Evening Post.

Railway Construction at Kobe.

Mr. Kishime, the Mayor of Kobe, Messrs. Nozawa & Co. and Teibota Jaro, members of the House of Representatives for Kobe called on Count Teranishi, the Premier, on the 8th instant and made a representation to him concerning the proposed reconstruction of the railway running through Kobe and other matters relating to the port.

Robbed of £25.

While acting as a good Samaritan to a soldier, who had fallen on the roadway in Bunkers, Melbourne, recently, John A. Moir, a union organiser from Queensland, fell into the hands of thieves. He did not know that he had suffered any loss until he looked through his pockets the following morning, when he realised that while bending over the soldier he had been robbed of three £5 notes and ten £1 notes. He appealed to the police, but gave them no clue as to the identity of the thieves.

FEEDING THE WORLD.

A War Time Problem.

Amid so much that is uncertain with regard to the financial and economic outlook, says the London correspondent of the New York Evening Post, one probability is becoming increasingly evident; namely, that a marked feature of the closing days of the campaign, and moreover of the months that will follow the closing of the war, will be an abnormal shortage of food-stuffs throughout the world. Indeed, the only surprising thing is that such a condition should not have been clearly foreseen long ago.

To say that to many millions of men (representing those who are actually engaged in fighting the enemy) have been withdrawn from the field of productive labour of every kind, is to express the situation quite inadequately. In addition we have to remember the millions who have also been withdrawn from agriculture and food production generally by the lucrative wages offered in other employments, and notably those connected with the direct production of munitions of war. It is in fact a case of nature herself crying out against the ravages of war and its effect in deflecting productive labour to channels of destructive warfare.

Whether this great shortage in foodstuffs will have its effect at an early date in hastening the conclusion of the war, remains to be seen. At the moment, there are no very reliable indications in that direction. It is true that reports from the interior of Germany show the economic distress in those districts is becoming acute. But on the other hand, it must be remembered that Germany's organising powers are wonderful, and there is no doubt that in the matter of food distribution there will be economy and organisation down to the last ounce. Moreover, at the time I am writing Germany is achieving such diplomatic advantages in Russia as may give her command of additional foodstuffs—in which case the first cry of actual famine may come from other directions than Germany.

Something like famine conditions after the war will make Germany all the keener to secure such terms of peace as shall ensure that her own population has its claims for a share in the world's food supplies. Therefore, while the prospect of a food shortage is clear enough, the precise method of its operation, and its effect upon the duration of the war is at present obscure.

There is one point arising out of the situation as it exists to-day which appeals strongly to the London financial mind. It is, that it is all the more up to the Allies, including the United States, to use the economic weapon with regard to Germany and to intimate that the longer Germany refuses to evacuate Belgium and acquiesce in the righteous demands of the Allies, the surer will be the sequel of economic discrimination against Germany for a number of years after the war comes to an end.

While it is clearly the duty of the individual to practice the most rigid economy even as regards the question of food, it may be noted also that the experience of the past few years, and of those which are likely to follow, will give an enormous impetus to the movement for stimulating production in those countries which hitherto have increasingly directed their attention to mere money making and financial operations, as distinct from the older industry of agriculture.

Even in the greatest of all agricultural producers in the world—the United States—there was for some years before the war a tendency to leave the country for the cities and to desert the industry of food-production for the manufacturing centres. Doubtless it will be some time before this tendency will be reversed, if only by reason of the enormous orders which will flow in to you manufacturers of all kinds and raw material both during and after the war. Still, sooner or later the reaction will come, and it will probably be born of stern necessity, and of the high prices which will prevail for food even when the war is over.

DAIRY FARM NEWS.



OUR BUTCHERY DEPARTMENT

CAN

Supply Suitable Provisions for your

TABLE.

SEND FOR OUR PRICE LIST.

A PECIALITY

for

SHIPPERS AND SHIPPING.

WE PUT UP

CORNERED BEEF AND PORK

IN KEGS OR CASKS

FOR EXPORT OR STEAMERS' USE.

COMMERCIAL NEWS.

Cotton Blankets.
There has recently been a greatly increased demand from Africa for Japanese cotton blankets, and it is reported that a Japanese firm in Kobe has received a large order. The Japanese output is quite limited, manufacturers existing only in Wakayama and Kobe. In the circumstances, so far the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha and other exporters have been able to accept only about one-third of the orders. It is doubted whether the large order now received in Kobe can be executed.

The Coal Position.
Messrs. Wheelock and Co. of Shanghai, write as follows in their fortnightly coal market report for March 14:—Japan Coal:—This market has shown rather more life since last writing and the native dealers, now that the Chinese New Year holidays are over, are more inclined to talk business. Although there are enormous stocks now lying in Shanghai, the fear of freights going still higher in the event of Japan taking military action in Siberia, which would certainly use up all Japan's surplus tonnage, is influencing native dealers to still further replenish their stocks before freights become prohibitive or even impossible which might easily be the case if operations were undertaken on a very large scale. Our local market is strong. Fushan Coal:—Nothing to report. Kaiping Coal:—Owing to the firmness of the market in Japan a strong demand has arisen at China-wangtao for shipments throughout the East. These sales naturally strengthen the market, and the price of coal remains firm at loading port. With the opening of Newchwang and increased water in the Yangtze in the near future, there is no doubt that freights will maintain an upward tendency, especially as rates in the South are quite high. In these circumstances there appears little possibility of any reduction in coal prices here. The total coal arrivals in Shanghai for the fortnight, from all sources, were 34,252 tons.

American Cotton.
New York May quotations, having touched 25 cents, declined on March 11 to 31.45 cents with July at 30.95 at the opening. On the same day the market closed at 31.73 and 31.18 for the months named. These slight fluctuations, which must be expected with reports now and then of Government price control, appear always to end with an upward movement, and there is reason to believe that top prices are yet to be reached. A week ago (say the N. C. Daily News of March 15) the Liverpool agents of Messrs. Tels, Sons & Co., telegraphed to the effect that while the statistical strength of New York was diminishing it was increasing in Liverpool. This may be due in a measure to the probability that exports from New York are lessening because of the tonnage difficulties; all available steamers being used for the transport of men, munitions and foodstuffs eastward across the Atlantic. Though opposite views may be held, it would seem that the restriction of private manufacture of cotton cloth will have little effect on the quantity of cotton consumed, and that the market cannot be permanently weakened when the needs of supplies for the increasing allied armies are taken into consideration. Bombay Bunch, April, at the same time has dropped from Rs. 685 to Rs. 690.

Journalistic Changes.
From a statement made in the New East it appears that Mr. Gregory Mason is relinquishing the editorship of the Japan Advertiser, and with Mr. Mason, will sail for France in May. Mr. Hugh Bess, now on the staff of the New East, will resume his old position on the paper. The Advertiser needs up its editors rather wastefully. If we are not mistaken in seven years it has had five, to say nothing of other changes in the staff. Perhaps it is to avoid the constant alteration of imprint that Mr. B. W. Fleisher appears as both Proprietor and Editor—Japan Chronicle.

SHARE REPORT.

COMPARATIVE SHARE QUOTATIONS.

S.—SELLERS; SA.—SALES; B.—BUYERS N.—NOMINAL.

To-day's Closing Prices	STOCK.	Number of Shares	Par Value	Paid Up	1915.		1915.		1916/7.		Last Dividend and Date
					Highest	Lowest	Highest	Lowest	Highest to Date	Lowest to Date	
	Banks.										
s. \$615	H.K. & Shanghai Banking Corp.	120,000	\$125	all	845	Sept.	785	May	820	545	Final div. of £2. 3/- & Bonus of £1. year end 31/12/17. Subject Income Tax, at Exch. 3/- \$21 Paid 3/2/18. Final of £1 making \$25 a/c 1915, and interim of \$15 a/c 1916. Paid 3/1/17.
b. \$320	Marine Insurances.										
b. \$120	Canton Ins. Office, Ltd.	10,000	\$250	50	427 1/2	Sept.	340	Jan.	426	290	Final Div. of 15% mak. 30% for year ending 30/6/16 Paid 31/10/17
sa. \$800	North China Ins. Co., Ltd.	10,000	\$15	25	180	April	145	Jan.	180	100	Final of \$20 and bonus of \$10 making \$30.00 for 1915, Int. of \$30 for 1916 Paid 26/4/17.
b. ex 73 \$217 1/2	Union Ins. S'ty of C'ton, Ltd.	15,438	\$250	100	972	Aug.	760	Jan.	1005	730	Final of \$15 for 1915, and Interim \$3 for 1916. Paid 14/4/17.
	Yangtze Ins. Assoc. Ltd.	12,000	\$100	60	280	Dec.	200	Jan.	300	190	
	Fire Insurances.										
b. \$133	China Fire Ins. Co. Ltd.	30,000	\$100	20	163	Aug.	127 1/2	April	168	121	\$7 & \$2 bonus 1916. Paid 36/4/17.
n. \$320	H'kong Fire Ins. Co. Ltd.	8,000	\$250	50	420	Sept.	385	Jan.	420	290	\$27 for 1915. Paid 29/3/17
	Shipping.										
s. \$77	Douglas Steamship Co., Ltd.	20,000	\$50	all	104 1/2	Dec.	28 1/2	Mar.	137	70	Final Div. of \$5.00. Paid 29/9/17 making 20% for year end 20/6/17.
b. \$18	H'kong, C. & M.S.S. Co., Ltd.	80,000	\$15	all	23 1/2	May	19	Dec.	24	15	Interim of 3/- on Pref. and 6/- on Def. Shares at Ex. 2/11/17 Paid 15/2/18. (\$2.02 on Def.)
sa. \$154	Indo-China (Combined)	60,000	\$5	all	172	Dec.	62 1/2	Jan.	241	119 1/2	Interim of 2/- for 1917 (Coupon 29). Paid 14/7/17.
b. \$132 1/2	Steam Navigation Co., Ltd. (Preferred)	60,000	\$5	all	68	Oct.	54	Aug.	55	32 1/2	\$1.30 Div. and 30 cents bonus for year ending 30.4.17. Paid 30/5/17.
b. 120/-	Shell T'port & T'ing Co., Ltd.	3,787,610	\$1	all	94 1/2	June	75 1/2	Jan.	122 1/2	85 1/2	Final Div. of 7 1/2 % Paid 28/12/17. (Coupon 10).
s. \$28	Star Ferry Company, Ltd.	40,000	\$10	all	39 1/2	Oct.	23	July	41	28	1/2 for 1909
b. \$80	Refineries.										
b. \$29 1/2	China S. Refining Co., Ltd.	20,000	\$100	all	134 1/2	Sept.	80	Jan.	146	80	Final Div. of 7 1/2 % Paid 28/12/17. (Coupon 10).
	Malayan S. Refining Co., Ltd.	14,000	P.30	all					41	29	1/2 for 1909
b. 40/-	Mining.										
s. \$3	Kailan Mining Admin'tion.	1,000,000	\$1	all	35 1/2	April	30 1/2	Dec.	40 1/2	25 1/2	Final of 4/- making 5/- for a/c year ending 12/11/15 paid July 1916
b. 32/-	Raub Australian Gold Mining Co., Ltd.	200,000	\$1	all	4.40	Mar.	2.40	Jan.	3.35	1.70	Div. of \$6 & Bonus \$4 for 1917. Paid 21/1/18.
n. 20/-	Troch Mines Ltd.	160,000	\$1	all	25 1/2	Dec.	32 1/2	Mar.	42 1/2	25 1/2	Final Div. of 6% making 11% for 1917.
n. 27/-	Ural Caspian	796,666	\$1	all	43 1/2	April	25 1/2	Jan.	38 1/2	23 1/2	Final Div. of \$1 making 45 for year ending 31/12/17. Paid 23/1/18.
s. \$183	Oriental Con. Min. Co. Ltd.	499,890	G. \$10	all							\$7.00 for year ending 31/12/17 Paid 16.11.17.
b. \$131	Docks/Wharves, Godowns, &c. H'kong & K.W. & G. Co., Ltd.	60,000	\$50	all	82	Oct.	65	April	99	67	Div. of 12 for 1917. Paid 28/9/17.
sa. t. 97 1/2	H.K. & W.D. Co. Ltd.	60,000	\$50	all	90	Oct.	56	Mar.	135	78 1/2	Div. of 12 for 1917. Paid 28/9/17.
b. t. 66	Shai Dock & Eng. Co., Ltd.	55,700	t.100	all	63 1/2	Sept.	49	July	97 1/2	59	Div. of 12 for 1917. Paid 28/9/17.
b. t. 66	Shai & H'kew W. Co., Ltd.	35,000	t.100	all	100	Dec.	80	April	93	67	Div. of 12 for 1917. Paid 28/9/17.
b. t. 87 1/2	Lands, Hotels and Buildings.										
b. \$84	H'kong Hotel Co., Ltd.	20,000	\$50	all	124	Feb.	108	Dec.	118	94	Div. of 12 for 1917. Paid 28/9/17.
b. \$5.50	H'kong Land Investment Co.	50,000	\$100	all	114	Jan.	103 1/2	Dec.	105 1/2	85	Div. of 12 for 1917. Paid 28/9/17.
n. \$27 1/2	H'phreys Estate & F. Co. Ltd.	150,000	\$10	all	7 1/2	Jan.	6	July	7 1/2	5.50	Div. of 12 for 1917. Paid 28/9/17.
b. t. 70	K'loon Land & B'ing Co., Ltd.	6,000	\$10	all	30	Jan.	40	Sept.	38	33	Div. of 12 for 1917. Paid 28/9/17.
n. \$78	Shanghai Lands	78,000	t.50	all	57	Mar.	107	Dec.	107	74	Div. of 12 for 1917. Paid 28/9/17.
b. \$90	West Point Building Co., Ltd.	1,500	\$50	all	68 1/2	Mar.	77	Dec.	90	69	Div. of 12 for 1917. Paid 28/9/17.
b. t. 174	H'kong Central Estates.										
b. t. 154 1/2	Cotton Mills.	1,000	\$100	all	103	Dec.	99	Jan.	103	89	Div. of 12 for 1917. Paid 28/9/17.
b. t. 76	Ewo Cotton S. & W. Co., Ltd.	20,000	t.50	all	180	July	147	Jan.	180	130	Div. of 12 for 1917. Paid 28/9/17.
b. t. 138	Kung Yik	75,000	t.10	all	163	July	11 1/2	Feb.	163	11 1/2	Div. of 12 for 1917. Paid 28/9/17.
b. t. 43 1/2	Laou Kung Mow	8,000	t.100	all	90 1/2	Sept.	72	Jan.	81	63	Div. of 12 for 1917. Paid 28/9/17.
b. t. 8.60	Shanghai Cottons	40,000	t.50	all	100	May	77	Jan.	138	81	Div. of 12 for 1917. Paid 28/9/17.
b. \$4.10	Oriental Cotton Spin. Co. Ltd.	20,000	t.50	all	61	Oct.	64	Dec.	8.85	4 1/2	Div. of 12 for 1917. Paid 28/9/17.
b. \$7.10	Yangtzepeos	175,000	t.5	all	61	Oct.	64	Dec.	8.85	4 1/2	Div. of 12 for 1917. Paid 28/9/17.
b. \$29	Miscellaneous.										
b. \$48	China P'oneo Company, Ltd.	60,000	\$15	all	11 1/2	Apr.	9 1/2	May	10.35	6.50	Div. of 12 for 1917. Paid 28/9/17.
b. \$48 1/2	China Light Power Co., Ltd.	60,000	\$5	all	3.65	Mar.	4.95	Oct.	4.90	3	Div. of 12 for 1917. Paid 28/9/17.
b. \$29	Do. (Spec. shares)	50,000	\$1	all							Div. of 12 for 1917. Paid 28/9/17.
b. \$48 1/2	China Prov't. L. & M. Co. Ltd.	125,000	\$10	all	7 1/2	Jan.	10.15	Oct.	10.10	7.50	Div. of 12 for 1917. Paid 28/9/17.
b. \$225	Dairy Farm Company, Ltd.	60,000	\$7 1/2	all	35	Jan.	29	Dec.	41	20	Div. of 12 for 1917. Paid 28/9/17.
b. \$225	Green Island Cement Co., Ltd.	400,000	\$7.50	all	11.20	Oct.	5.20	Jan.	12.10	6.75	Div. of 12 for 1917. Paid 28/9/17.
b. \$225	Hongkong Electric Co., Ltd.	400,000	\$10	all	45	Oct.	36 1/2	Feb.	55	43	Div. of 12 for 1917. Paid 28/9/17.
b. \$225	Hongkong Ice Co., Ltd.	6,000	\$25	all	190	Dec.	183	Oct.	225	147 1/2	Div. of 12 for 1917. Paid 28/9/17.
b. \$225	Hongkong Rope Mfg. Co., Ltd.	60,000	\$10	all	34 1/2	Dec.	25	Jan.	41	26 1/2	Div. of 12 for 1917. Paid 28/9/17.
b. \$225	Hongkong Tramway Co., Ltd.	325,000	5/-	all	6	Oct.	5	Apr.	7.50	5 1/2	Div. of 12 for 1917. Paid 28/9/17.
b. \$225	Langkats	200,000	G. \$10	all	43 1/2	May	35	Mar.	40 1/2	12	Div. of 12 for 1917. Paid 28/9/17.
b. \$225	Peak Tramway Co., Ltd. (Old)	20,000	\$10	all	10 1/2	Mar.	9.30	June	10.25	8	Div. of 12 for 1917. Paid 28/9/17.
b. \$225	Do (New)	60,000	\$10	all	1.00	Mar.	80 cts.	Aug.	1.00	80 cts.	Div. of 12 for 1917. Paid 28/9/17.
b. \$225	Steam Laundry Co., Ltd.	20,000	\$5	all	4.25	Jan.	3	June	4	3.00	Div. of 12 for 1917. Paid 28/9/17.
b. \$225	Union Water-boat Co., Ltd.	27,723	\$7	all	18	Jan.	16	Dec.	17	11 1/2	Div. of 12 for 1917. Paid 28/9/17.
b. \$225	Watson and Co., Ltd.	90,000	\$10	all	7 1/2	Mar.	6.50	Oct.	7.70	5 1/2	Div. of 12 for 1917. Paid 28/9/17.
b. \$225	William Powell, Limited	11,000	\$7	all	6.90	Aug.	6	Dec.	7 1/2	5 1/2	Div. of 12 for 1917. Paid 28/9/17.
b. \$225	S. C. Morning Post	6,000	\$25	all	28		28		29	28	Div. of 12 for 1917. Paid 28/9/17.
b. \$225	H'kong Steel Foundry Co., Ltd.	7,808	\$10	all	11		11		11	9 1/2	Div. of 12 for 1917. Paid 28/9/17.

BENJAMIN & POTTS, Share and General Brokers, Princes Building, HONGKONG. Tel. address, Broker.

CORRECTED TO noon, MARCH 22, 1918. TELEPHONE NO. 1162.

ANY SUBSEQUENT ALTERATIONS WILL BE FOUND IN 'UP TO THE MINUTE SHARE MARKET NEWS'

THE TELEGRAPH DOES NOT HOLD ITSELF RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY OF THE ABOVE QUOTATIONS.

EXCHANGE.

SELLING.	T/T Marka..... Nom.	Demand, Germany.....
3 1/2	T/T France..... 423	Demand, New York. Nom.
3 1/2	Demand, Paris..... 423 1/2	T/T Bombay..... Nom.
3 1/2	30 d/s..... 3 1/2	Demand, Bombay..... Nom.
3 1/2	60 d/s..... 3 1/2	T/T Calcutta..... Nom.
3 1/2	T/T Shanghai..... Nom.	Demand, Calcutta..... Nom.
3 1/2	T/T Singapore..... 133 1/2	Demand, Manila..... 147 1/2
3 1/2	T/T Japan..... 142 1/2	Demand, Singapore..... 133 1/2
3 1/2	T/T India..... Nom.	On Haiphong..... 14 1/2 prem.
3 1/2	Demand, India..... Nom.	On Saigon..... 15 1/2
3 1/2	T/T San Francisco..... 73 1/2	On Bangkok..... 15 1/2
3 1/2	Do & New York..... 73 1/2	On Hongkong..... 15 1/2
3 1/2	T/T Java..... 163 1/2	Gold Left, per oz..... 41.80
		Bar Silver, per oz..... 44 1/2

22nd March, 1918.

SUBSIDIARY COINS.

DEBOUTE PER \$100:

H'kong 5 ct. p. sub. c. \$4.50 dis.	10	50
10	50	150
50	150	7 1/2
Canton 20	7 1/2	dis.

MARTIN'S
APOLLO STEEL
A Special Brand of Steel for the Construction of Bridges, Buildings, and other structures. It is the strongest and most reliable steel ever made. It is sold in all parts of the world. It is the only steel that can be used in the most severe conditions of climate and weather. It is the only steel that can be used in the most severe conditions of climate and weather. It is the only steel that can be used in the most severe conditions of climate and weather.

BANKS.

BANK OF CANTON, LIMITED.

HEAD OFFICE, HONGKONG.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE and General Banking Business Transacted.

INTEREST ON FIXED DEPOSITS:

For 3 Months 3% per annum.

For 6 Months 4% per annum.

For 12 Months 4 1/2% per annum.

LOOK POON SHAN, Chief Manager.

BANQUE INDUSTRIELLE DE CHINE.

行銀業實法中

Capital (Paid up) - France 45,000,000.

(1/3 of the Capital subscribed by the Government of the Chinese Republic).

Chairman of the Board of Directors: Andre Berthelot.

General Manager: A. J. Perrotte.

HEAD OFFICE: 74 Rue Saint Lazare, PARIS.

BRANCHES: PEKING, SHANGHAI, TIENTSIN, HONGKONG, and SAIGON.

BANKERS.

In FRANCE: Société Générale pour favoriser le Développement du Commerce et de l'Industrie en France.

In LONDON: London County & Westminster Bank, Ltd.

In NEW YORK: Redmond & Co.

In ITALY: Banca Commerciale Italiana.

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Interest allowed on Current Accounts and Fixed Deposits. Terms on application.

Every description of Banking and Exchange business transacted.

M. ROYER DE LOURDEL, Manager.

HONGKONG BRANCH: Queen's Building, Tel. No. 2352.

5, Charter Road.

Hongkong, 20th August, 1917.

NOTICES.

NOTICE.

PEAK TRAMWAY CO. LIMITED.

TIME TABLE.

SUNDAY.

SUNDAY.

SUNDAY.

SUNDAY.

SUNDAY.

SUNDAY.

SUNDAY.

SUNDAY.

SUNDAY.

SUNDAY.

SUNDAY.



There they sat and talked—talked to Emily
Pendennis Ch 6

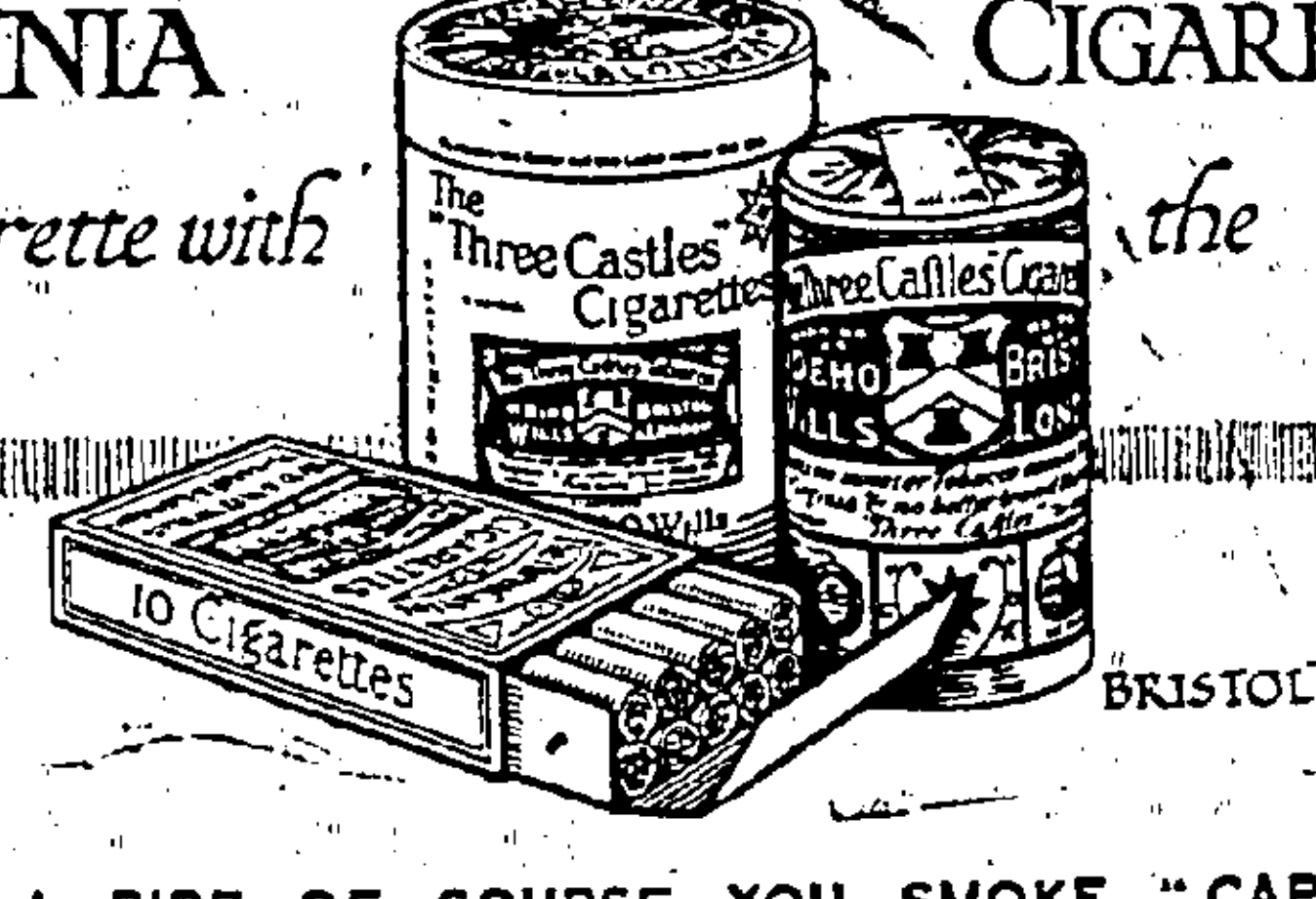
None will fail to feel the charm there is in these few words—to most will come a recollection of their own infatuation. And in the quiet of reflective mood there will be at once an atmosphere wherein the charm of a cigarette is most enthralling. At such a time you will discover the full significance of the "Pedigree" quality in the "Three Castles" Brand—then you will find out exactly why you have always cared more for them than any other. Not only because they are fragrant and beautifully made, because they are pure and tasteful, but because in them there is that indefinable something—a subtle charm which has secured the world's infatuation.

There's no sweeter tobacco comes from Virginia and no better Brand than the "Three Castles" (the "Three Castles" brand is the "Three Castles" brand).

The Three Castles

VIRGINIA CIGARETTES

The Cigarette with the Pedigree



W.D. & H.O. WILLS. BRISTOL & LONDON, ENGLAND.

IF YOU SMOKE A PIPE OF COURSE YOU SMOKE "CAPSTAN NAVY CUT"

POST OFFICE.

The Parcel Post service to places in Szechwan Province is suspended until further notice.

In future mail for Kongsuon will be closed at the General Post Office and at the Szechwan Post Office at 5 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, on other days as at present.

The Russian Post Office refuses to accept any further mails for transmission to Europe by the Trans-Siberian railway.

The London Post Office advises that all parcels (except those for Prisoners of War) and all sample packets for Denmark, Holland, Norway, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland will be stopped by the Military Censors unless posted under a War Office permit.

The importation into the Commonwealth of Australia of tea, other than that grown or produced in British Possessions is prohibited, unless the consent in writing of the Commonwealth Minister for Trade and Customs has been first obtained.

The Parcel Post Services to British East Africa and Egypt (except for members of the Expeditionary Forces), and to Abyssinia, Bagdad, Ethiopia, French Somali Coast, Italian Somaliland, Portuguese East Africa, Zanzibar and Russia have been suspended.

Correspondence addressed to enemy subjects in China, Siam, Siberia and Portuguese East Africa, Persia and Morocco cannot be transmitted.

The Services to Germany, Austria, Bulgaria and the Ottoman Empire are suspended.

Uninsured parcels for the United Kingdom will in future be forwarded from Hongkong in bags and the Public are therefore advised to pack such parcels very carefully.

Letters franked at the 4 cents rate addressed to Yunnan and Mongolia and other places in the Province of Yunnan should be superscribed with the words "For delivery by the Chinese Post Office."

Parcels for Greece cannot be accepted for transmission unless accompanied by a special permit issued by the British Minister at Athens.

Arrangements have been made for the transmission of parcels to the United Kingdom via Canada.

The rates of postage are as follows:—
Parcel post over 5 lbs. 80 cents.
Do. 7 lbs. \$1.50.
Do. 11 lbs. 2.70.

No insurance can be effected on parcels sent by this route.

WEATHER REPORT.

March 22d 12h 10m.—No returns from Japan and Vladivostok. Pressure has decreased slightly over the Philippines, and increased slightly elsewhere. The anticyclone has increased in intensity, but apparently continues to move north-eastward; the depression remains over Indo-China. Fresh monsoon will prevail along the China Coast to the south of Focchow, and over the N. China Sea.

Hongkong Rainfall for the 24 hours ending at 10 a.m. to-day, 0.01 inch. Total since January 1st, 0.41 inch against an average of 3.06 inches.

FORECAST FOR THE 24 HOURS ENDING AT NOON TO-MORROW.

District	Forecast
1 Hongkong to Gap Rock	E. winds, fresh, cloudy, some rain.
2 Formosa Channel	N.E. winds, fresh.
3 South coast of China bet. H.K. and Lamoo	The same as No. 1.
4 South coast of China bet. H.K. and Hainan	The same as No. 1.

China Coast Meteorological Register.

March 22, a.m.

Station.	Hour.	Barometer.	Temperature.	Humidity.	Winds D'lon. Force.	Weather.
Vietook	5a					
Namuro	5a					
Hakodate						
Tokio						
Kochi						
Nagasaki						
Kagima						
Osakima						
Naha						
Ishijima						
Bonin Is.						
Whaiwai	5a	30.19	38	72	sw	2 b
Hankow						
Chang						
Kiukiang						
Changsha						
Shanghai		34.18	59	100	ne	1 b
Guangai		30.15	42	92	nne	2 b
Sharp P.		30.08	54	87	n	2 b
Amoy		30.14	55	81	ene	2 o
Swatow		30.07	53	58	e	1 b
Taihou		30.04	57	67	e	1 b
Taihu		29.98	57	51	n	2 o
Taiwan		29.95	51	51	n	4 b
Koshun		29.93	63	53	n	0 b
P'iores		29.99	64	54	nne	0 b
Canton		29.92	66	55	te	2 o
H'kong		29.97	64	55	e	4 o
Shanghai		29.90	64	55	e	4 o
Macao		29.91	64	96	ene	4 of
Wuchow	7a					
Pathol						
Hollow						
Phanien	7a	29.84	65	100	ene	6 of
Younane		29.84	70	95	e	2 b
C. S. J.		29.86	73	95	e	4 b
Apurri		29.87	75	96	e	0 b
Dagupan						
Manila		29.86	64	90	e	1 b
Leycepi		29.85	63	94	e	0 b
Isabela						
Isabela		29.82	73	83		o
Surigao						
Guam	4.20	29.80	75	94		0 b
Lepau		29.76	78	95	sw	2 o